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DAYS TO GO
BEFORE CHRISTMAS

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

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buy your holiday
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INSIDE



Elizabeth Edwards, 61

Elizabeth Edwards' death Tuesday at age 61 ended a struggle of extraordinary and multiple dimensions.

Nation...Page 14

Perils of Student Visa Program

Lured by unsupervised, third-party brokers with promises of steady jobs and a chance to sightsee, some foreign college students on summer work programs in the U.S. get a far different taste of life in America.

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Tinian Dynasty employees payless for 2 months. PAGE 2
'Domestic violence in US highest during Super Bowl Sunday.' PAGE 6

BARELY A MONTH AFTER 5-CENT HIKE

Mobil gas prices up 10-12 cents



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Taxicab owner and operator Nurul Islam fills up his cab's gas tank at the Beach Road-Garapan Mobil service station yesterday afternoon, hours after Mobil increased its pump prices by 10 to 12 cents a gallon or barely a month after a 5-cent hike. Above shows the price display for self-service gasoline that are lower than the full-service prices.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Science researchers share results of studies in CNMI

» **Public invited to presentations wrapping up today**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

From chemical contamination of the Saipan Lagoon to a progress report on a marine fisheries' summer camp for high school students and rats on Pagan, 12 groups of researchers from the CNMI, Guam, Hawaii, and other areas kicked off yesterday a series of public presentations on scientific studies con-

See **SCIENCE** on Page 4

Saipan motorists shouldered another 10 to 12 cents a gallon increase in pump prices at Mobil Oil Marianas service stations yesterday morning, barely a month after a 5-cent increase in early November.

Babauta, Fital to kick off energy planning today



Babauta



Fital

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Tony Babauta and Gov. Benigno R. Fital will lead an energy planning kickoff this morning, highlighting the need to come up with a plan on how to implement renewable energy sources in the CNMI and other insular areas.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said this

is a follow-up to Fital's previous travel to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado in March.

The Fital administration has made it a priority to seek ways to tap renewable energy sources due to the skyrocketing cost of fuel and to help protect the environment.

NREL, a laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy, is the only federal laboratory dedicated to the research, development,

See **BABAUTA** on Page 4



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Local

Tinian Dynasty employees payless for 2 months

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Nonresident workers of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino claim they have not received their paychecks in the past two months and have complained of special treatment of local staff, an allegation denied by the hotel's managing director, Alfred Yue.

Hotel employees, who requested anonymity for fear of retaliation, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they haven't received their paychecks for October and November.

However, they disclosed that Tinian Dynasty has been paying their local employees on time—a practice they described as “unfair” and “demoralizing.”

“The last paycheck we received was the second week of October that covered the work we rendered in September. Since then, we haven't gotten any payment and by the next payroll, our salary would already be behind by almost four paychecks,” a two-year hotel staff told *Saipan Tribune*.

Another employee said it seems the company is giving special treatment to local staff

“because they've been receiving their salary and they are the bank's priority [in terms of encashment of checks],” the staff said, adding that the longest time local employees have to wait for their paychecks is a week.

Employees interviewed by *Saipan Tribune* estimated that the hotel currently has over a 100 nonresident workers and about 50 local employees.

They claimed that like local staff, “we have also our own bills to pay, families to support, and daily needs to fulfill.”

Although Yue admitted a de-

lay in employees' payroll, he claimed that the company is behind in its payments for only a month and not two months. He further claimed that “no special” treatment has been provided to its local staff.

“Yes, we're delayed in our employees' payroll but it's only a month and this covers everybody—including local staffers. There's no truth that we're giving special treatment or priority to some employees,” said Yue.

Yue can't immediately recall yesterday when they last issued paychecks to employees. “I can't remember when it was,

but I understand that our comptroller issued payments just a few days ago. I have yet to verify and check it.”

Yue claimed that the hotel has about 500 personnel of which 80 percent are paid hourly wages, while the rest are paid monthly. He declined to disclose the payroll cost of the company, but admitted that it runs in the “hundreds of thousands” of dollars every pay period.

“I hope they understand our current situation...we're in a very adverse condition here on Tinian,” he added.

The Tinian Dynasty official assured the hotel's continued operation despite the delay in salaries.

“We're shrinking...but we do the best we can like any other business. The economy is bad and we're still being affected by many factors such as federalization, reduction of flights, and the tourism,” said Yue, adding that the delay was “unavoidable” but not deliberate.

Tinian Dynasty, which opened in 1999, is the lone casino operating on Tinian. It remits 13 percent of its revenue to the municipality, which it uses for the salaries of the island's government employees.

Despite the declining business climate in the Commonwealth, Yue said they have managed to keep enough workers to sustain their 24-hour operation.

SAES seeks help to rebuild condemned facility

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

San Antonio Elementary School is seeking the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's help to rebuild one of its condemned buildings that poses a serious hazard for students.

Principal Martin Dalsaso said the Building C, which is among the oldest on campus, used to have four classrooms that served over 300 students.

The now unoccupied building also previously housed a general classroom for third and fourth graders, one for Chamorro/Carolinian Language Heritage Studies classes, a classroom, an office for special education, and the school's reading resource room.

Because of lack of local funding to support repairs and renovation in schools, Dalsaso disclosed that the school, in collaboration with its parents' teachers association and Public School System capital improvement project office, will seek assistance from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through its community development block grant.

CNMI—through the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.—will receive nearly \$1.6 million to support community development and produce more affordable housing. The funding includes \$880,000 in CDBG for this fiscal year.

Dalsaso said a grant application is being drafted for the CDBG hearing in March 2011.

“We don't know the numbers yet...but we're taking the first step. PSS-CIP is helping us make the proposal for March deadline,” he said.

Saipan Tribune learned that despite the worsening condition of the building, the school was forced to utilize a portion of the dilapidated facility last year.

The school this year, however, totally closed Building C after it was condemned.

The school currently has 15 classrooms for its more than 300 students.

During Tuesday's Board of Education meeting, capital improvement project committee chair Marylou Ada said BOE cannot allocate other funding sources for the school's building repair because these have already been allocated for other projects.

Ada lauded the Dalsaso's move to first communicate with PSS and the board prior to seeking help from NMHC.

“We thank San Antonio for letting us know first before they went ahead and apply at CDBG or appear in its public hearing,” said Ada.

Some public schools have been successful in getting assistance from CDBG funds for building repairs and renovations.

Among them were Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School for its newly built classrooms and Saipan Southern High School for its swimming pool project.

Housing, CDA to merge Rota offices

Plans are underway for the merger of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. and the Commonwealth Development Authority Rota field offices.

The two agencies have already merged their offices on Tinian and split the expenses equally.

NMHC chief accountant Roger Dris informed the board that CDA wants them to pay for the rent on the Rota merger while CDA takes care of the Tinian office.

However, Dris noted that this will be more expensive for Housing since office rent on Rota alone is \$700 which is \$100 more than the rent on Tinian.

“If you calculate that for one year, it's \$1,200 [more] already [on] rental alone,” said Dris.

The NMHC board decided to adopt the Tinian setup on the Rota merger. “Same agreement on Tinian so it's less headache,” said board chair Marcie Tomokane. *(Clarissa V. David)*

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Detention guard's motion for bail denied

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The federal court yesterday again denied bail for Tyron Farley Reyes Fitial, the detention guard who allegedly used his position at the Kagman Juvenile Detention to force three female wards to engage in sex acts.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge William Fremming Nielsen denied bail for the 24-year-old Fitial and remanded him into the custody

of the U.S. Marshal.

Fitial, through counsel Joseph James Norita Camacho, had asked the court to modify his bail and set conditions for his pre-trial release upon posting an unsecured bond.

Camacho proposed that Fitial be released to his mother, Rita Fitial and a co-custodian Lauri Ogumoro, the defendant's common-law wife.

Camacho said both the mother and common-law wife can control and moni-

tor the defendant to ensure he complies with all the court's conditions.

The lawyer proposed that Fitial will only have contact with his 5-year-old son, and at all times in the presence of the proposed custodians.

Camacho said there is nothing in Fitial's background to indicate a propensity for violence nor is there anything in his demeanor or personality that suggests that he has a propensity for violent behavior.

"Release of the defendant to his mother and common-law spouse as third-party custodians, surrender of defendant's passport, house confinement or curfew, and such other conditions as the court may deem necessary should ensure that the defendant will appear and will not fell the jurisdiction," Camacho said.

Assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto had opposed the motion, saying that Fitial has not presented any new evidence that would justify the court re-opening the detention hearing.

Benedetto said Fitial is charged with serious crimes

involving minor victims, for which Congress has established a presumption for detention pending trial pursuant to the Bail Reform Act.

"In addition, the defendant has already had two 'bites at the apple,' neither of which persuaded the court that there was any condition or combination of conditions that would ensure the safety of the community," he said.

On the contrary, Benedetto said, the court made specific findings of a serious risk that Fitial would seek to "threaten, injure or intimidate" one or more of the government's witnesses.

The Federal Bureau of In-

vestigation arrested Fitial on June 11 after the filing of the original indictment. Since then, he has been detained at the Department of Corrections in Susupe.

According to the indictment, on or about October 2009 through February 2010, Fitial kicked and hit a minor and forced the victim to engage in sex acts.

The offense allegedly resulted in bodily injury, and involved acts of aggravated sexual abuse against the minor—a ward of the Kagman Juvenile Detention Unit.

In that same period, Fitial allegedly subjected another minor to coerced sexual acts.

Fitial has pleaded not guilty. His jury trial is on Feb. 7, 2011.

Rotary Christmas CD already distributed

» Off-island orders also accepted

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

Over 1,500 copies of the first Christmas CD produced by the Saipan Rotary Club have already been distributed to different locations throughout the island.

"Christmas in the Marianas" is available for sale for \$15 each and features 15 original and cover holiday songs in Chamorro, Carolinian, and English performed by local artists from Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam.

The songs performed by artists from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota were recorded on island while four artists recorded their songs in Guam.

The Christmas CD was launched during the Rotary's Thanksgiving luncheon for the *man'amko* at the Aging Center on Nov. 23.

A total of 2,000 copies of "Christmas in the Marianas" were made in the Philippines to be sold within and outside the CNMI.

Club service director Laila Boyer said members of the community can buy a copy of the CD from any of the following stores: Joeten Shopping Center in Garapan and Susupe, Triple J Super Fresh Mart, Surf Turf Shop in Garapan, Tun Kiku's, Skechers, Kagman Mobil, and the Star Sands Plaza.

Boyer said copies of "Christmas in the Marianas" may also be purchased from any Rotary Club member.

According to Boyer, they have been receiving a number of off-island orders since the Christmas CD is a perfect island gift for those who are away from the islands this season.

Payments for off-island orders can be made by sending money order to the Saipan Ro-

tary Club at P.O. Box 500434 Saipan, MP 96950.

Boyer added that they can also place their order through the Rotary Club's Facebook page or by sending an email to saipanrotary@gmail.com.

Boyer said proceeds of the Christmas CD sales will fund various Rotary projects, including the construction of a children's playground for Kagman village.

Tinian poker arcade customer is arrested for stealing coins

» Camera catches teenager taking basket of coins

A surveillance camera has helped police identify a regular customer of a poker arcade on Tinian who allegedly stole coins worth \$394.75 from the establishment on Nov. 29.

Police served 19-year-old Elgene Reyes Shai with an arrest warrant on Monday for theft.

Bail was set Tuesday at \$100 cash and \$900 unsecured bond. He will be arraigned on Dec. 20.

Detective Herbert C. Borja stated in his report that on Nov. 29, 2010, at 8:49am police officer Kioni Cruz responded to the office of Huang Shun Poker Room after receiving a call about a theft incident.

When the arcade management showed the surveillance tape to Cruz, he identified Shai as the person who walked into the cashier's booth and took a

basket of coins.

Shai allegedly took the money when the cashier went out to clean the arcade's entrance.

The cashier recognized the teen because he plays at the poker arcade almost every night.

The cashier told police that when she reported for work at 7am that day, she saw only one customer. As the customer was playing, she left the booth to clean the arcade's front.

The customer, carrying a black pouch, left the establishment after a few minutes.

At 8am, when another customer came in and asked for change, that was when the cashier noticed that the coins were missing.

Borja said he and two other detectives reviewed the surveillance camera and recognized Shai as the person who came in to the booth and stole the basket of coins. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

DPW official in extortion case gets reprieve

The federal court yesterday granted the request of a Department of Public Works building code inspector to reschedule his jury trial for alleged extortion.

The jury trial of Thomas Sablan Salas was originally set for Monday, Dec. 13. U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge William Fremming Nielsen rescheduled it to Feb. 7, 2011 at 9am.

Nielsen agreed that the continuance is necessary in order to give Salas' lawyer more time to prepare his defense.

Salas has agreed to waive his right to a speedy trial.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric

O'Malley, counsel for the U.S. government, did not object.

The indictment charged the 42-year-old Salas with one count of extortion under color of official right.

According to the indictment, Salas used his position with the DPW to demand bribes from a businessman in exchange for not imposing alleged building code violation fines.

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The Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested Salas on Sept. 17, 2010, after he allegedly extorted a total of \$200 cash from a printing press owner.

The prosecution claimed to have a video footage when the printing press owner handed the bribe money to the DPW official.

Salas has pleaded not guilty. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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Cost of hiring lawyers for Legislature, 2 other gov't agencies also sought

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Former representative Tina Sablan filed three more Open Government Act requests for information on government agencies' expenses in hiring attorneys, including one addressed to the Department of Finance for costs incurred by the Legislature and the Legislative Bureau.

Sablan filed the additional OGA requests on Monday, addressed to Finance, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

Attorney Mark Hanson withdrew his personal OGA request to CUC, and has asked that any documents being prepared for his request should be redirected to Sablan.

Sablan, Hanson, and retiree William R. Barrineau earlier filed 18 OGA requests for information from 17 government agencies, including the Office of the Governor, relating to employment and independent legal service contracts awarded to attorneys since January 2008.

Sablan expressed concern about the additional expenses being incurred by having outside counsels handle the OGA requests for certain government agencies.

She also gave updates on these government agencies' responses thus far to their previous requests.

She said the Office of the Governor, the Department of Finance, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Public Works, and the Commonwealth Ports Authority have not formally ac-

knowledgeed or responded at all to the requests yet.

The Department of Public Safety, through acting Commissioner Aniceto Ogomoro, and the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, through special assistant Marianne Teregeyo, have responded that no attorneys have been employed or contracted by their respective departments since 2008, and that legal services have been provided by the Attorney General's Office.

Sablan also said at least one agency that employs outside counsel, CUC, has referred an OGA to the Attorney General's Office, "out of concern that there might be a conflict if the agency's private, contracted attorneys were to oversee the review, redaction, and disclosure of their own contracts, billing statements, and payment records."

"Other agencies have opted to engage their outside counsels in handling these Open Government Act requests," Sablan said.

These agencies include the Department of Public Lands, and several autonomous agencies such as the Commonwealth Development Authority, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, the Northern Marianas College, and the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission.

"I am frankly quite concerned about any additional costs being incurred by having outside counsels handle these Open Government Act requests. I am also concerned about the propriety of private attorneys deciding on their own which parts of their contracts, billing statements, and payment records to redact, and which parts should be made public. I await these agencies'

responses before commenting further," she said.

The Marianas Public Lands Trust, through its office manager Bobbie Reyes, has indicated that the responsive documents are being prepared and that Sablan should be contacted not later than Dec. 10.

The Department of Labor and the Department of Public Lands have requested an extension of time to release the requested records.

The Northern Marianas College, the Commonwealth Development Authority, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. have indicated through their outside counsels that they are now preparing the requested documents, but may need additional time.

"Some agencies have indicated their intent to redact parts of the requested documents, and will be preparing statements citing and justifying the exemptions they will be claiming under Section 9918 of the Open Government Act. I have requested that these agencies submit that statement by the 10-day deadline, even if they will be requiring additional time to disclose the requested documents," Sablan said.

The requests have been made to obtain a broad picture of the range of legal fees being paid by CNMI taxpayers.

Sablan said legal services have historically been, and continue to be, a major government expenditure, as well as a significant source of abuse.

"We intend to bring to light any abuses of public funds or the CNMI procurement process that may have occurred, and may take further action as necessary," she added.

New evaluation system for certified PSS personnel in the works

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* on Tuesday that the Public School System is in the initial stages of developing a comprehensive evaluation system for all its certified personnel.

Although she admitted that there is an evaluation policy in place, the education chief believes that since the system is conducting more research-based instructional strategies and best practices, PSS needs to ensure that these are also aligned with its evaluation system.

Certified personnel included classroom teachers, school administrators, program managers, counselors, and related service providers.

Sablan hinted that the education commissioner may also be included in the comprehensive evaluation method.

"We're looking at evaluation system that would include the teaching standards and research-based strategies and best practices and also aligned those expectations in terms of standard-based education," the commissioner told *Saipan Tribune*.

This year, she said, PSS will focus on planning and developing while im-

plementation is set for next school year.

Working with PSS in this goal is the Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning, or McREL which is in support of the PSS and the education board's initiative to have an effective set of procedures for an evaluation system that meets 21st century education.

Saipan Tribune learned that the state-level, system-wide evaluation initiative will be based on specific post-school outcomes, defined rubrics or direction, and rules in terms of practice and job performance, among others.

to interact with the scientists and learn about some of their findings," Furey told *Saipan Tribune*.

The APASEEM is encouraging other researchers, public resource management agency directors and employees, students, teachers, and members of the general public to avail of the free presentations. The group expects to have a higher turnout today.

The organization is the only science, science education, and environmental management best practices supportive body in the CNMI.

Today's lineup of presentations include an evaluation of the gill net fishery in the Saipan lagoon to be presented by Michael Trianni and Michael Tenorio of the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife's Fisheries Program, as well as Steven McKagan of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Pacific Islands Regional Office.

Amanda Hansen, Daniel Scott, Mark Cannon and Dr. Roger Goodwill of the

Brigham Young University-Hawaii will talk about trace metal contamination in the sea anemone, while Valrick Welch of San Vicente Elementary School will report on the graphs of science and math improvements for students at his school.

James Stanford of the U.S. Geological Survey will present his study on brown tree snakes in the CNMI, while Roger Goodwill of BYUH will talk about the strange invertebrates inhabiting Saipan reefs.

Lael Prince, Mollika Graham, Michael Schsenbaugh, Dr. Dave Bayee and Dr. Roger Goodwill also of BYUH will talk about reproductive studies on a Sabellid Polychaete from the Kahuku Reef Flat on Oahu, Hawaii.

Lauren Fielding, Dr. Oscar Johnson, Dr. Roger Gold, Dr. Roger Goodwill, Lael Prince, Patricia Johnson, Paul Brusseau, and Nancy Brusseau of BYUH will also make a presentation on new insights of the migration patterns of Pacific Golden-Plovers.

Public library eyes use of solar panels

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library plans to make itself more energy efficient through the use of solar panels.

Executive director John Oliver DLR Gonzales said this would be made possible by means of a grant application they submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Gonzales said the HUD-administered funding is part of the annual Congressional grant which amounts to \$200,000 for this program year.

Gonzales told *Saipan Tribune* that the Library Council, with the support of the current administration, submit-

ted the grant in October for roof hardening and maintenance.

Deadline for submission of application is this month.

According to Gonzales, the grant application process is competitive since it is open to all states and territories.

However, Gonzales remains hopeful that their application gets approved so the public library can venture on its planned energy-efficient project.

"Once approved, we can explore how to make the state library more energy-efficient through the solar panels," he said.

Gonzales said recipients of the grant will be announced between January and March 2011.

10 Saipan beach sites red-flagged

The division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the Wing Beach, Tanapag Meeting Hall, Central Repair Shop, DPW Channel Bridge, Dai-Ichi drainage, Hafa-Adai Hotel, Hafa-Adai drainage, Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach drainage, and CK Dist#4 Beach and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan coast every Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. **(DEQ)**

ERRATUM

Tuesday's article, "Japan to Pay Relocation of Marines to Tinian," indicated that the Okinawan lawmakers' visit was coordinated by Tasi Tours. That is incorrect. The coordination was facilitated by Pacific Development Inc., not Tasi Tours. Our apologies.

BABAUTA

From Page 1

commercialization, and deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. The laboratory focuses on wind, solar, and biomass sources for renewable energy and on energy efficiency solutions.

Demapan said Babauta and Fitial will lead the kickoff ceremony along with key NREL staff and representatives from local government agencies who will be participating in the energy planning committee.

"It is not a conference, but rather just a brief kickoff event to signify

the beginning of the CNMI's commitment to invigorating energy efficiency in the islands," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

This is Babauta's second visit to Saipan in a month; the first one was in November when the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs hosted a forum on economic and labor development.

This time around, the Interior, along with NREL, is focused on bringing alternative energy to insular areas. NREL scientists and engineers arrived on Saipan ahead of Babauta to gather data and meet with stakeholders to help in the formulation and implementation of a plan.

SCIENCE

From Page 1

ducted in the CNMI.

For those who missed yesterday's presentations, they will still have a chance to listen to and interact with researchers as they share their studies to the general public free of charge.

The presentations will be held again from 3:30pm to 6:30pm today at the American Memorial Park auditorium in Garapan.

John Furey, president of the Asia Pacific Academy of Science, Education, and Environmental Management, said the group wants to make sure that information gathered from studies or research in the CNMI are shared with the public.

"We invited people with things to share regarding science, science education, or environmental manager... And so that's why we held this conference so the public can have a chance

MOBIL GAS

From Page 1

is now \$4.029 a gallon after a 10-cent increase.

Full-service super gasoline now costs \$4.469 a gallon, while self-service is \$4.349 a gallon, marking a 10-cent hike.

The self-service gasoline prices are the ones on display at service stations.

Diesel at Mobil went up by 12 cents, from \$4.099 a gallon to \$4.219 a gallon.

Nurul Islam, who owns and operates a taxicab for 10 years, said it is hard enough to earn money in his line of business nowadays, making the total of 15-cent increase in gas prices in just a month will be too much an additional burden.

"It's going to be so hard for me. I am barely earning an income because we're getting too much competition from Chinese and Korean taxis," Islam told *Saipan Tribune* in an inter-

view while he was filling up his taxicab's gas tank at the Beach Road-Garapan Mobil service station.

Rose Laniyo, a mother of four, said residents like her will have to further cut on other expenses just to buy gasoline for their cars.

"I think I will cut my budget for betel nut," she said.

Her son, 21-year-old Jeff Laniyo, said the gas price increase means less money in his pocket for other things.

"It's not nice. It will be a burden," he said.

The last time Shell and Mobil increased their prices were in early November.

Yesterday's price increase was the fifth since 2010 started. Since February 2009, Saipan motorists have seen an increase of at least \$1.30 a gallon in gasoline price.

Shell and Mobil do not issue advance notice of price increases. Saipan motorists know about such price changes by the price displays at gasoline service stations.

Blanco is new zoning board chair

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Diego Blanco is now the Commonwealth Zoning Board chair after board members held an election during its regular board meeting on Dec. 2.

Blanco replaced Herminia Fusco who was the zoning board chair from 2009 to 2010.

BOE names Palacios the new Head Start director

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Education named Melissa Palacios as the new director for the Public School System's Head Start program during Tuesday's meeting in Capitol Hill.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan disclosed that the board's decision was based on PSS' recommendation relative to her performance as Head Start's acting director.

Palacios has been serving as the program's interim director following the retirement of Keiko Yamagata early this year.

"The board made a decision to hire our interim director. She's been in the position for the last five months and during those months, she showed her leadership skills in terms of overseeing the Head Start which is a highly regulated program in the CNMI," said the commissioner.

Sablan is expecting Palacios to continue what she started for the program and ensure the compliance to all rules and standards of national Head Start program.

"My expectation is to make sure that we stay in compliance with all of the rules and regula-

Other newly elected board officers are vice chair Isidoro Cabrera, secretary Edward Arriola Jr., and treasurer Joe Limes.

The two remaining members of the zoning board are Henry Hofschneider and Elizabeth Rechebei.

In a phone interview before he went off-island, Blanco vowed to give the zoning board

tions and the consistency of the services," she said.

Head Start was cited in compliance some federal standards early this year. Just recently, however, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services lifted the local Head Start program's non-compliance status on five key areas.

Head Start is the only publicly funded preschool program that provides center-based services to eligible children and families. It is currently being served in 10 centers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The program served 462 children. In previous years, the CNMI was permitted to serve 579 kids. The program received federal funding of \$1.7 million for its current enrollees.

Palacios, the newly named director, meantime vowed on Tuesday to continue to improve the services offered for Head Start enrollees.

The new director pointed the need to bring teachers with degrees as only four of Head Start's 50 current staff have degrees. She said she will continue to encourage her staff to avail professional development sessions to equip them with the needed tools and teaching strategies.

a new direction under his leadership once he presides over board meetings beginning January 2011.

"The zoning board will have a new direction and become more business friendly. We will do what we can to help businesses on island and improve our economy. New leadership, new direction," Blanco told *Saipan Tribune*.

Arriola, who also serves as the board's spokesperson, said the new zoning board will continue the previous board's undertakings that will benefit the community such as the work sessions they constantly conduct to discuss proposed amendments to the Saipan Zon-

ing Law of 2008.

"Ms. Fusco has done a great job with the board and has a lot of great new ideas. We will surely take them into consideration," he said.

Arriola said the newly elected board officers will take on

a more progressive stance in dealing with zoning clients and issues.

He pointed out, though, that it will take years before the community sees the benefits and advantages of the zoning law.

"It's going to be slowly but surely. They have to be patient with the board especially the zoning staff who really work hard in doing their jobs. Every-

thing will be great for the businesses and the community years from now," he said.

Zoning administrator Douglas Wyatt said he welcomes the new board composition.

"Anytime you get a new member or officer to the board, it takes on a new character. It's going to be interesting. We look forward to working with the new board officers," he said.

Man sentenced in federal court for ice distribution

Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, the U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, announced yesterday the sentencing of Gilbert Macaranas in Federal Court for the District of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The sentencing stems from a plea agreement entered into be-

tween Macaranas and the federal government in which Macaranas agreed to plead guilty to distribution of a controlled substance (methamphetamine).

The charges stem from a two-count indictment that charged Macaranas and codefendant Carlos Aldan with selling "ice."

Visiting District Court Judge

William Fremming Nielsen sentenced Macaranas to six months of imprisonment, followed by three years of supervised release.

This case was investigated by agents from the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force and was successfully prosecuted by assistant U.S. attorney James J. Benedetto. (PR)

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'Domestic violence in US highest during Super Bowl Sunday'

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Guma Esperansa director Laurie Ogumoro addresses the Saipan Rotary Club during their regular membership meeting Tuesday at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's Restaurant.

the teams they are rooting for.

"These men wouldn't want their wives or children to disturb them during Super Bowl," she added.

According to Ogumoro, they also see an increase in the number of domestic violence cases right before the school year starts.

"Parents stress out when there's no money to buy school supplies for the children," she said.

Ogumoro also said that domestic violence intensifies during the holiday season and alcohol use during family gatherings serves as a crucial factor.

"The unfortunate reality of our hard economic times—losing a job, coupled with drug use—is also a factor for domestic violence cases," she added.

Ogumoro said they help these victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking by providing them shelter at the federally funded Guma Esperansa House of Hope.

According to Ogumoro, their proudest achievement is obtaining the transitional housing grant which provides housing assistance for up to 24 months to help victims become independent and live violence-free lives.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Guma Esperansa director Laurie Ogumoro said the highest incidence of domestic violence in the United States occurs during Super Bowl Sundays.

"Super Bowl Sunday, which is Monday here [local time], has the highest incidence of domestic violence and we have to break that here," Ogumoro said Tuesday at the Saipan Rotary Club meeting at Giovanni's.

Having brothers and a father who are into football, Ogumoro explained that men tend to be more intense during this time as they are absorbed with

Man gets 90-day jail term for 'ice' possession

A suspected "ice" dealer who pleaded guilty to illegal possession of controlled substance, was sentenced to a 90-day jail term.

In a written order issued on Monday, Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona sentenced Eleno Blas Valdez to 90 days in prison, without the possibility of parole or probation.

Valdez was given credit for the time he served in jail since Sept. 11, 2010. It means that he will be released from the Department of Corrections tomorrow, Friday, at 4pm.

Manglona ordered the defendant to pay a \$2,000 fine and \$100 court assessment fee.

The judge required the defendant to return to court on March 30, 2011 for a review hearing to determine if he has complied with all the terms and conditions of his sentence.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Valdez with trafficking of a controlled substance, and illegal possession of controlled substance.

The defendant and counsel signed a plea agreement with the government. He pleaded guilty to illegal possession of controlled substance (involving less than one gram of "ice").

The remaining charge was dismissed as part of the agreement.

CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force detective Sean White stated in his report that a cooperating source managed to purchase \$100 worth of "ice" from Valdez on Aug. 2, 2010.

White said Valdez agreed with the Task Force to become a "cooperating defendant" in order to arrest his source of "ice" on Saipan.

White said that on Aug. 20, 2010, the Task Force received a tip from a concerned citizen about the presence of two local males who were possibly smoking "ice" near a poker arcade in Dandan.

A responding detective spotted Valdez and another man sitting in a vehicle and passing a glass pipe to each other.

The detective identified himself and searched the vehicle where he recovered two glass pipes and a small ziplock bag that allegedly contained "ice."

The detective said the man tagged Valdez as the source of "ice."

The Task Force served an arrest warrant to Valdez last Sept. 11. It was not clear whether Valdez's companion was also arrested and charged. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



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Babauta meets with CNMI Water Task Force

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas Tony Babauta met Tuesday with the CNMI Water Task Force during the first full day of a three-day visit to the CNMI. The purpose of his initial visit to the task force was to receive an update on recently completed, cur-

rent and pending projects, along with future funding needs.

Since the task force was created in 2004, it has received \$33.8 million in CIP funding from the Office of Insular Affairs. As a result of the task force's efforts, 24-hour water service has increased from 26 percent in 2006 to

78 percent of Saipan residents today.

A goal of both the task force and OIA is to provide 24-hour water service to 100 percent of the residents of Saipan within the next couple years. Babauta assured the task force that he will do his best to identify additional funding to meet this goal. (OIA)

Scientific conference ongoing at AMP auditorium

The Asia Pacific Academy of Science, Education, and Environmental Management is holding its annual Science, Science Education, and Environmental Management meeting beginning yesterday, Dec. 8, until today, Dec. 9, at the American Memorial Park auditorium.

APASEEM is also holding its annual general membership meeting on these dates.

Once again, this year's conference is hosting speakers who traveled here at their own expense from Hawaii and from Guam, as well as presentations by on-island scientists and science students.

The time for the presentations is from 3:30pm until 6:30pm on both days.

APASEEM issued a call for presentations in early November and 12 groups of researchers have expressed their interest in speaking.

As recommended, this year the Academy has moved the talks from the evening to a day-period time slot. Six to seven talks are scheduled for each day and each talk is planned for about a 20-minute period with another five minutes for questions.

Interested members of the general public and resource agencies are encouraged to attend and ask questions following each talk.

The timing, from 3:30pm to 6:30pm, is to encourage pub-

lic and private school science teachers to attend both days. Public resource management agency directors and private firm managers are encouraged to allow interested employees flexibility in work hours in order for them to attend and participate in the islands' sole science, science education, and environmental management best practices supportive body.

Yesterday's presentations, starting at 3:30pm, included:

■ Dr. Gary Denton, University of Guam Water and Environment Research Institute, Mercury and Lead Contamination Case Studies in Saipan Lagoon: Good News, Bad News!

■ James Stanford, U.S. Geological Survey Biological Resources Division, Preliminary Report on Small Non-Volant Mammals Surveys, Pagan Island.

■ Dave Bucher and Kagman High School Advanced Biology Organization, in cooperation with Dr. Robert L. Schlub, Extension Plant Pathologist, University of Guam and Dr. Dilip Nandwani, Plant Pathologist/Agronomist, NMC CREES, Studies on the Decline of the Tree Species Casuarina equisetifolia in the Marianas Archipelago.

■ Judy Amesbury, Micronesian Archaeological Research Services, Inc., Guam, "Pelagic Fishing in the Mariana Archipelago: From the Prehistoric

Period to the Present."

■ Andrea Bruner and Dr. Phil Bruner, Brigham Young University, Who's Your Daddy? Extra-pair Paternity in Ruddy Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*) and Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) at Woolley Lagoon, Nome, Alaska.

■ Richard Seman, A Report on Three Years Work Re: Conducting Summer Camps on Marine Fisheries and Resources at Marianas High School.

This afternoon's presentations will feature:

■ Michael Trianni, Michael Tenorio, CNMI DFW Fisheries Program and Steven McKagan, NOAA Pacific Islands Regional Office, Evaluation of the Gill Net Fishery in the Saipan Lagoon. 8

■ Amanda Hansen, Daniel Scott, Mark Cannon, Dr. Roger Goodwill, BYUH. 2010. Trace metal contamination in the sea anemone, *Edwardsianthus gilbertensis* (Carlson, 1931).

■ Valrick Welch, San Vicente Elementary School, A Short Report with Graphs of the Science and Math Improvements for San Vicente School as Well as the Specific Improvements from the Students Who Participated in the Summer Camp and the Highly Involved Students from the Young Farmers Club.

■ James Stanford, USGS, Focus on the Brown Tree Snake (*Boiga irregularis*) Issue in the NMI (Causes for Concern, Re-

cent Developments, Etc.).

■ Roger Goodwill, BYUH 2010. Monsters without Backbones—the Strange Invertebrates Inhabiting the Saipan Reefs.

■ Lael Prince, Mollika Graham, Michael Schenbaugh, Dr. Dave Bybee, and Dr. Roger Goodwill, BYUH, Reproductive Studies on a Sabellid Polychaete (*Sabellidae: Fabriciinae*) from the Kahuku Reef Flat, Oahu Hawaii, 2010.

■ Lauren Fielding, Dr. Oscar Johnson (Montana State University), Dr. Roger Gold, Dr. Roger Goodwill, Lael Prince, Patricia Johnson, Paul Brusseau, and Nancy Brusseau, BYUH. 2010. New Insights of the migration patterns of Pacific Golden-Plovers.

APASEEM reserves the option to alter the order and days of speakers as circumstances warrant. For more information, contact John Furey via email at jfurey@saipan.com or by phone at 234-5103 (please leave a voice message after 7 rings).

The APASEEM nonprofit organization was begun in April 2004. To date it has held 13 formal meetings with 54 formal and informal talks given by 96 individuals presenting their projects and findings, mostly involving studies and projects done here on the islands. General membership meetings are held just prior to or shortly following each day's presentation. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 9, 1998

Consulting firm tasked to review proposals

The task of reviewing proposals submitted for the construction of 45 affordable and attractive housing units in Koblerville was turned over to SSFM Engineers Inc., construction management consultant of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. The consulting firm, which also designed the houses, is now reviewing proposals submitted by 10 local and international companies like Futura Technologies, JG Sablan, TeleSource, China Huashi, Pac-United Corp., Pegasus-SHD Joint, Sablan Construction, Northern Pacific Builders, Black Micro Corporation and Fletcher Pacific.

DPH, DOLI sue to recover medical bills, wages

Two government agencies have filed a lawsuit against two employers to recover payment of medical bills, wages and repatriation costs. Assistant Attorney General Celeste Andersen, representing the Departments of Public Health and Labor and Immigration, filed the civil lawsuit against Bernadita C. Taitano dba J&B Enterprises and Lee Pan Sik. The action was brought to enforce a Labor Administrative Order issued last Aug. 28 by DOLI Hearing Officer Herb Soll enumerating Lee and Taitano's liability to CHC for the medical bills incurred by Li Changxi, a non-resident worker.

Dec. 9, 1999

MVA prepares blueprint for Garapan beautification

An outdoor cafe where visitors can sit and relax, a covered walkway all over the area and a place where local performers can provide entertainment are just among the many improvements to be carried out for the Garapan Beautification Project. The Marianas Visitors Authority is hoping to get a \$3 million in initial funding for the plan from the money earmarked for Capital Improvement Projects expected to be released early next year. "We are hoping to give Garapan a different image with this plan which would actually cost \$7 million to implement," said Perry Tenorio, MVA managing director.

Limited marine activities on Managaha draws support

Legislation restricting activities on Managaha island and surrounding waters drew wide support at a public hearing held Tuesday night as residents and government agencies underscored the need to protect fish species and marine resources found in the area. The House Committee on Natural Resources is expected to endorse the bill sponsored by Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider after it has amended some provisions as proposed during the town meeting at the Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Hall. "The people have showed interest and they are in support of the bill," said committee chair, Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio. Committee members, Hofschneider and Rep. Melvin O. Faisao, were on hand to respond to questions from the public and receive testimonies.

Dec. 9, 2002

DPH to refer more patients to Manila

The Department of Public Health will now focus its referral program to regional facilities—primarily hospitals in Manila—to save on cost and to seek prompt medical attention for patients in view of the on-going strike of nurses in Hawaii. DPH Secretary James U. Hofschneider said that, right now, CNMI patients need to be sent to Manila hospitals following an advisory from Hawaii not to refer patients there at this time in view of the labor dispute. "Before, our problem was the suspension of referral services. This time, it's labor problem. So we've got to find an alternative," he said. Manila hospitals, he said, are considered the best alternative in terms of cost, proximity, and quality service. "We want to make sure our patients receive the needed medical care so we're focusing now on regional facilities like Guam and Manila."

APIL backs funding for charitable cargo

The Association of Pacific Island Legislatures adopted Friday a resolution requesting its member entities to earmark a portion of their annual budgets to fund the costs of transporting humanitarian cargo to Pacific areas in need. This came following a request from the Ayuda Foundation, the organization that provides humanitarian aid to Micronesia through medical missions and urgent relief efforts. Carlotta A. Leon-Guerrero, the foundation's executive director, said that shipping cost was one of the stumbling blocks in their efforts to ensure the continuous traffic of medicine, medical equipment and health services to island recipients.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy birthday to Ton "Pes-kado!" Robert! Enjoy your special day! Greetings come from your family in Upper Matuis. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday Eleanor! Greetings come from Uncle Pete, Auntie Dors and the whole familia. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Belated happy birthday greeting to Ruel Nava, who celebrated his special day on Dec. 8, 2010, and happy birthday greetings to Rosevin Dela Cruz, who has her special day today, Dec. 9, 2010! We wish you both all the best! Many you both have more birthdays to come! Greetings come from your Joeten Ace Hardware family. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This happy birthday shoutout goes out to Miss Daisy Cabrera who celebrates her birthday today, Dec. 9. May you be blessed with many more birthdays to come! Enjoy your day, cheers and bottoms up! Much love coming from all your family and friends!



Happy, happy birthday greetings go out to Ms. Geri Willis, who celebrates her birthday today, Dec. 9! Thank you for being a pillar of inspiration for many of us CNMI educators! We are blessed to have had you as an instructor, mentor, and friend! May the good Lord bless you on this special day! CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to Raymond Nivon C. Sablan II, who turns 2 today! May you have many more birthdays to come! Greetings coming out from Daddy, Mommy, grandma, grandpa and family. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

USDOE approves \$8.6M ARRA grant for PSS

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Education on Tuesday signed phase

Alaska Brass band to perform in free concert this Sunday

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The island community is in for another musical treat when the U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific's exciting and versatile component takes center stage this weekend.

Alaska Brass, the outstanding musical group from Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, is scheduled to perform a free concert on Dec. 12, 2010, at 4pm at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater.

The talented ensemble of five brass and one percussionist will present an exciting program that features many styles of music such as classic rock, funk, jazz, ragtime, classical, and modern pop.

Alaska Brass has staged concerts and conducted clinics for civic and school audiences throughout Alaska, Hawaii, Japan, Australia, Guam, Korea, the Yukon, and British Columbia since 1977.

The group has also participated in local, state, and international festival celebrations and has been featured with a host of community musical organizations.

Alaska Brass' performance on Saipan is sponsored by the National Park Service, American Memorial Park, and the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Park Ranger Susan Fishman-Tudor said the group's free performance at the American Memorial Park will be a welcome replacement to the absence of the annual Christmas in the Marianas.

"Hopefully with their show, we can raise the level of entertainment during this season," Fishman-Tudor told *Saipan Tribune*.

She said the six members of the Alaska Brass will arrive Sunday morning and do the free concert that afternoon.

Fishman-Tudor encouraged the public to watch the free performance of Alaska Brass on Dec. 12. "Please share this unique and free gift from the National Park Service to the community."

Alaska Brass represents with pride the 43,000 military and civilian personnel serving Pacific Air Forces in nine strategic locations and various smaller facilities like in Hawaii, Alaska, Japan, Guam, and South Korea.

PACAF is part of the United States Pacific Command, which has about 325,000 military and civilian personnel assigned to it and makes up about one-fifth of the total U.S. military.

two of a consolidated grant that awards the CNMI Public School System \$8.6 million under the multibillion-dollar American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

PSS said the ARRA grant will be funneled to various programs of PSS, mainly on curriculum and instruction programs and initiatives that are already implemented and in place on all 20 of its campuses on Saipan, Rota,

and Tinian.

Board of Education chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita and Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan both confirmed the release of the grant Tuesday.

"We received the notice from Washington, D.C. that our grant has been approved by the USDOE. The grant is about \$8.6 million to support our students' programs and instructional programs for fiscal

year 2011," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

She added that CNMI-PSS is the first to receive the award from the insular areas and territories.

Blanco-Maratita said the federal grant couldn't have come at a better time for CNMI-PSS.

"It's a wonderful thing. It's something that especially comes at the right time when local funding hasn't come in...

obviously this is perfect timing to allow us to fill in and stay afloat," she said.

The board last July approved a plan on how to use the \$8.6 million consolidated grant for fiscal year 2011. Of the amount, \$900,000 is reserved for assessment, while \$100,000 will be reserved for Title I planning grants.

The federal programs office earlier reported that of the \$8.6 million, \$7.6 million will be used for the state administration, professional school improvements, and appropriation

for public and private schools.

A total of \$171,543 will be used in monitoring programs at 20 public schools and 32 private schools, while funds reserved for professional school improvement is \$972,079.

Funds for professional school improvements are broken down as follows:

- \$50,000 for the Saturday reading program;
- \$500,000 for networked computer/scanner/printer;
- \$220,000 for students competition;
- \$50,000 for monitoring and mentoring novice teachers; and
- \$72,079 for public education programs, and \$80,000 for other programs.

Still to be taken out from \$972,079 funds for professional school improvements is the private schools allocation of \$1.036 million and the public school allocation of \$5.443 million.

Under the public school allocation, the breakdown of allocations is follows:

- \$2 million for instructional materials and equipment;
- \$1.6 million for class size reduction
- \$214,892 for professional development;
- \$1.1 million for tutorials and mentoring; and
- \$481,783 for reading resource teachers salary.



TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Members of the CNMI State Board of Education and Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan pose with the schools' teacher of the year awardees during Tuesday's special luncheon treat at the board's conference room.

MONETH G. DEPOSA



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CUC-RFP-11-007

DRINKING WATER & WASTEWATER MASTER PLAN, CNMI

ADDENDUM NO. 1

November 17, 2010

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is issuing the following amendment to the proposal submittal deadline for CUC-RFP-11-007:

One (1) original and seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-11-007, Drinking Water & Wastewater Master Plan, CNMI" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, M.P. 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST), local time, on **January 14, 2011**. Late submission will not be considered.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST), local time, on **January 7, 2011** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer via email msablan@cucgov.net; Commander Kenneth Esplin via email kenneth_esplin@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika_muna@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to questions and clarifications, only to prospective Offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

/s/ **ABE UTU MALAE**
Executive Director

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID ITB11-DPW/ED-028

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 29, 2010 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ENERGY-EFFICIENT ENERGY STAR RATED COMPACT FLOURESCENT LAMPS (CFLs) FOR DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - ENERGY OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED IN WHOLE FROM THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) OF 2009 THROUGH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS	/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S
/s/ MICHAEL J. ADA CNMI ARRA LEAD	/s/ THELMA B. INOS DIRECTOR OF ENERGY

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID ITB11-DEQ-029 (A-D)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 29, 2010 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) COMPUTER SYSTEMS, FIVE (5) LAPTOP COMPUTERS, FIVE (5) PRINTERS AND THREE (3) PROJECTORS FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN DIRECTOR OF DEQ	/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S
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**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID ITB11-TDOL-022

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 21, 2010

TIME: 11:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR - TINIAN BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ JASPER M. BORJA RESIDENT DEPARTMENT HEAD DEPARTMENT OF LABOR	/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 293Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Congress should let the EPA do its job

(c) 2010, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Forty years ago last week, a Republican president created the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Today, buoyed by last month's electoral tidal wave, Republicans seem poised to undermine some of the most important initiatives that agency ever has undertaken.

Propelling the wave, one insider recently told the Washington Post, were "people upset with Obama's regulatory priorities, and in the Midwest at least, those people are upset with the EPA."

Atop the endangered list are crucially important new rules that would limit emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases. Those gases fuel climate change.

By some accounts, as many as half of the incoming Republican House members claim that they don't believe in global warming.

As a result, a bill to block the new regulations is virtually certain to pass early next year. A bill to delay those rules for two years may pass this month.

It isn't only Republicans who are to blame. Some Senate Democrats, including West Virginia's Jay Rockefeller, have pushed legislation that would delay the new EPA rules for two years. Missouri Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill is a co-sponsor of Mr. Rockefeller's bill.

Ms. McCaskill has expressed concern that the new rules would disproportionately affect the states, including Missouri, that get most of their electricity from coal-fired power plants.

Like Ms. McCaskill, we would rather see Congress address climate change through a carbon tax or cap-and-trade legislation than have the EPA tackle the issue through rules. But for at least a decade, Congress has failed to act.

In 2007, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the EPA to adopt rules on greenhouse gas emissions. It ruled that the federal Clean Air Act requires the EPA to set standards for pollutants that pose a threat to public health.

Scientific reality doesn't require political consent. The climatic forces set in motion by greenhouse gas emissions will continue unabated unless Congress or the EPA acts to reduce them—or until the worst effects of climate change are unleashed on our children and grandchildren.

The longer we wait, the more expensive it becomes to address the problem, and the more uncertain the outcome.

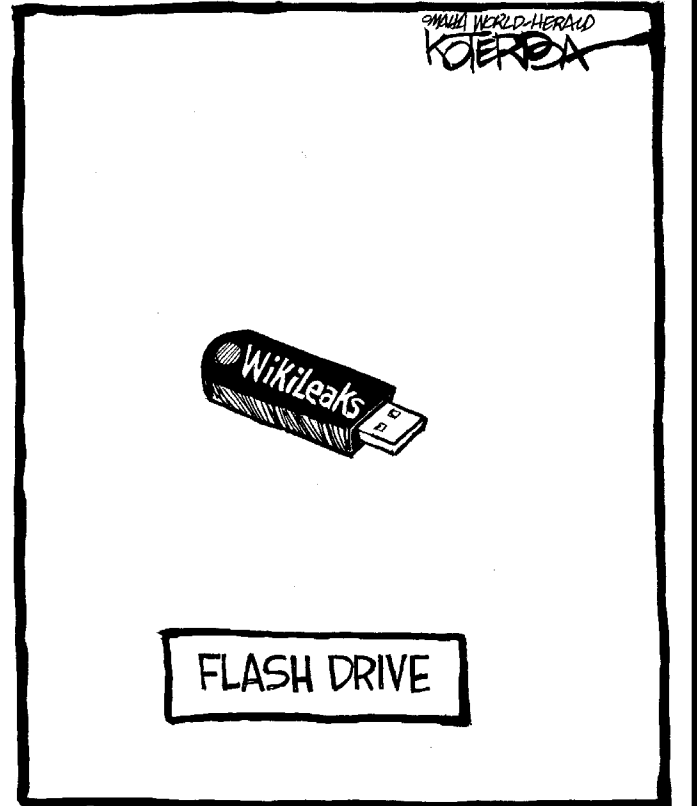
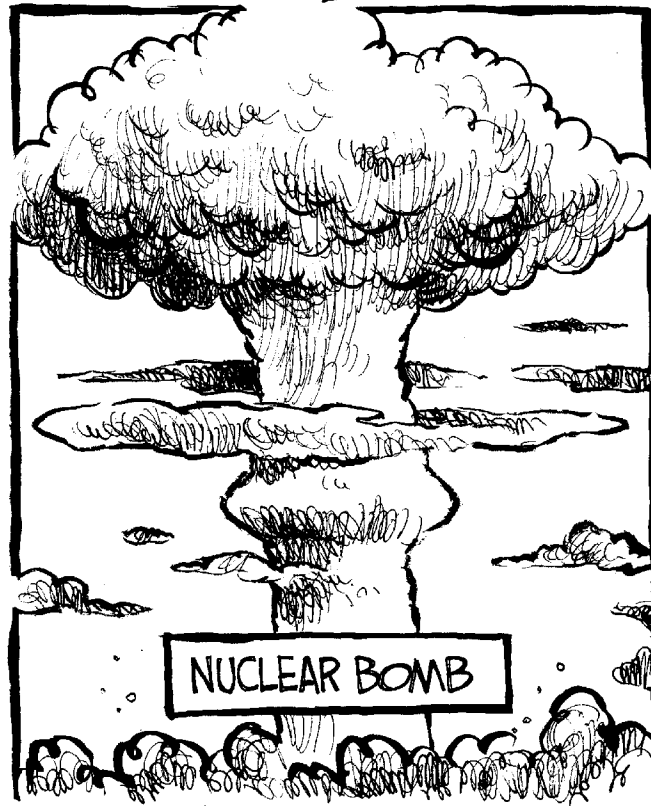
Global warming is no hoax. No matter how inconvenient it is, abundant scientific evidence shows that climate change is occurring and that human emissions of greenhouse gases are to blame.

It's ironic that many of the politicians who object to burdening future generations with debt are content to leave them with a damaged planet and an unstable climate.

Congress should not prevent the EPA from doing its job.

Sabotaging greenhouse gas limits may play well with some voters today. But future generations of Americans will view it as the ultimate in selfishness and self-destruction.

Weapons of Mass Destruction...



Thawing of a soul

One of the virtues of the imagination is the permission to mix metaphors and still mean something. In fact, mixed metaphors often deliver a heavier punch than straight narrative, e.g., "what is the color of your apartheid?" in old South African discourse. The racial prejudice by no means has been eradicated nor even ignored, as is the case with racism in the United States, but at least, the legal safeguards are in place so that the blatant forms of prejudice and discrimination can not be legitimately propagated.

We had been under the weather this past week in *Dong Bei*, even as Europe and Central Asia also experienced early snowstorms. Severity of weather in Europe disrupted air travel, and the cold white blanketing of agricultural central Asia and the Northeast caused irreparable damage to farm crops and stockades.

It was a delight to see a whole city come out of a thaw. Shenyang last week experienced an off-season blizzard that recorded more than a thousand vehicular accidents in six hours. We waited for a bus that is normally a 15-minute wait but felt excruciating pain to fingers (gloved) and toes (two layers of socks); we decided to take a cab before frostbite. The ride only cost five bucks, much less than the cost of a metered airport ride in Saipan, but it is still ¥-considerable as 5 percent of a China rural teacher's remuneration.

Thawing is a double-edged experience. Under the sun, the experience is pleasant as long as one remains directly under the sun. But in the shade, with the snow melting, and the roofs and eaves dripping with icy water, the humid cold seeps into our layered clothing, discomforting even the crevices of our soul.

Thawing of the Manchurian Peninsula's geography is, of course, not our primary social concern. It is the thawing of emotional, mental, and spiritual frozenness that has been a happy result of this trek into *Dong Bei* 2010.

Thinking our self to be progressive and liberal, we found our pool of Sino stereotypes to be deep and wide, e.g., we forgot that rural Manchurian hinterland industrialized with Moscow's trans-Siberian rail terminating in Harbin and the Shenyang rails ran by the Kwantung Army of Japan lording it over Manchukuo.

The blanket condemnation of "pagan" China of our inherited Christendom is negated by the liveliness of chant and song, foot-steps and dance, solos and bands, affirming human existence in parks and parking lots. A people once just the object of imperial missionary zeal, businesses' potential market target, and despised ideological deviants suddenly emerged in full flesh and blood to be not too distant from our own as kin.

Lest we be dubbed as blind apologist for Sino history, and glossing over the standard charges of demonic excesses of Mao's *Gongchangdang*, we have noted that the erstwhile amiable and social Chinese do not suffer queues well, nor submit to right-of-way in traffic. Pandemonium still accompanies train lines, though bus stops have been more civil in our experience of late. Communal health

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



does not extend into spitting in public, nor do legal prohibition of smoking observed in public places. Voluntary cleaning of common space is looked upon as weird. This, in a culture that pioneered the art and discipline of *Tao*, the communal Way, is a surprise.

Gridlocks are now a regular inconvenience during rush hour, and a 24-hour standstill was reported outside of Beijing during a recent holiday; no one seems inclined to give way. Where the traditional art of giving way is highly accented, even in war where Sun Tzu advised warriors never to leave an opponent without escape recourse, to see bulldozing traits points to a regressive move.

Seasonal farm workers' overwhelming presence in the urban centers this time of year as available cheap labor are evident in street corners and, with the construction industry on hold, the potential for mass unrest is always at the marginal ledger of society. When rural teachers get paid a monthly stipend of ¥600-900 while ¥ bean counters in financial offices add, at least, a couple more zeroes (*ling ling*) to their take home pay, one can begin to understand why the brains head for the city at the expense of the countryside; urban overcrowding is the order of the day. Government control of people's mobility follows.

Here's an unhappy paradox: China's success in industrial and commercial agriculture has left a swath of workers devoid of significant engagement. Land grant colleges were built in the United States when a similar situation occurred. Maybe Uncle Hu and Wen can do a similar song-and-dance, although massive university structures like the environs of my present academic sojourn seem to be in vogue rather than the more lively community college format that could benefit the liberation of the equally frozen Sino mind.

What has been the penury of the pocketbook that drove us to take our last paycheck on a trek to *Dong Bei* resulted in the discovery of a treasure trove of comprehensive attitude and wisdom, an incomparable chest of wealth not readily available in how-to books and motivational seminars. We reclaimed our birthright of freedom and creativity, inviting innovation and perpetual revolution, definitely worth the price of a plane ticket and the discomfort of frozenness in the cold.

We were trained to be Cold War combatants; I have opted to be a warm peace liberator! As Yogi Berra once said, "When you come to a fork in the road, take it." In full ambiguity, we did!

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Telling your story

By **RIK VILLEGAS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a writer, marketing consultant and business instructor at Northern Marianas College. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at <http://rikv.blogspot.com>.



"Try not to become a man of success, but rather to become a man of value."—Albert Einstein

Christmas is filled with numerous stories that are retold to recreate the spirit of the holidays. From Scrooge's Ghosts of the Past, Present, and Future who uses stories to influence the miser to re-evaluate his life, to whimsical tales of animated snowmen and jolly elves, we use stories to pass down traditions and keep memories alive.

One of those stories is about a red-nosed reindeer who was bashful and had a secret he hid from others—his nose was red and glowed. His parents were embarrassed and afraid that others would learn he was different. When his secret was discovered, he was rejected initially. However, it was his secret that made his story unique

and eventually saved Christmas Day.

We have had experiences that shaped our lives and created our own unique story. Stories help us connect to one another and transfer shared meaning. A story is a form of mental imprint that can mold perceptions and touch the unconscious mind. Each of us carries our own story that we have formed throughout our lives and that gives us identity. Whether we realize it or not, this identity is communicated to others in the first few minutes we meet someone new, and it can become our persona for the rest of our life.

Do you know your story and how you communicate it to others? Do you know the life-changing events in your personal or professional life that have forged your personality? Have you established the values and beliefs that are important to you, and then translated them into a corresponding look, sound, and feel that is unique only to you?

Everyone has a true story based on experiences and that shapes their values. You are really a composite of all your true stories—the good, the bad, and the ugly. Keeping part of your story secret out of fear that you'll be rejected only hides part of yourself, and in the end, the effort to keep secrets will create greater tension of what's inside wanting to come out to the surface to reveal itself. All of our fears can be summed up by feelings that we are not good enough or wondering if people will like us.

The most successful people have an identity founded on authentic, true-life stories that resonate with others because it is filled with human qualities that we can all relate to and believe in. Many of these individuals have had experiences that were difficult to live through, but shaped the person they are today. Their authentic stories have given greater hope and created a stronger bond with others.

Barbara Corcoran is one of New York's most successful real estate professionals who started her business with \$1,000 that she borrowed from her boyfriend. Ten years later she sold her business for \$76 million, and she attributed her success to several key principles. One of those principles was to "share your secrets." She said, "When you share your secrets with people, the most amazing thing happens. They share their secrets right back."

In order to connect with people, you should reveal your authentic self to them. Some people may reject you for your honesty, but there will be many more who are naturally drawn to you and all that you offer. Your truth becomes the lighthouse of hope that will draw people to you because they trust that you have gone where they want to go and have made it back again. Sharing your secrets is an act of trust that will cause others to share their secrets with you.

Like the story of Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer, keeping your story secret will dilute your ability to relate to others authentically. When Rudolph was forced to expose himself, he discovered that his secret was actually his strength and what had held him back were all the ideas he had chosen to believe about himself.

Like Rudolph, you should identify your true story and share your uniqueness with others. Recognize that you already have a story, and you should take control of it to convey the kind of story that makes you unique. Connect your experiences to the things that are important to you. Express your values in a way that incorporates as many of the human emotions that touch people, so you'll be remembered.

Each person wants to leave a legacy that will live on through their families, their work and the contributions they make in life. Make your story one of truth and authenticity.

What If?

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT *Creating economic success for the CNMI*

By **WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 16 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now lives a no-madpreneur lifestyle. To learn more, visit www.passionprofit.com.



Based on the responses to last week's Life Rhyme, *In The Comfort of Our Creations*, I decided to offer you another Life Rhyme this week.

It is for that person whose exam results didn't pan out the way they'd been hoped for. For that person who's feeling a bit abandoned by love. For that person whose expectations always seem to be over-promised and under-delivered. For that person who feels like giving up, I suggest you ask a critical "what if?"

What if that sense of emptiness
is not based on fact at all
and help and love are waiting

and all you have to do is call?

What if the rejection
is just all in your own mind
and folks are not all evil
but are mostly good and kind?

What if all their actions
are not really out of hate
but caused by thoughts arising
from a confused and fearful state?

What if all the doors that slammed
were just not yours yet to explore
and opportunities await you
with more abundance yet in store?

What if all the barriers
are really there for your own good
and someone's keeping you safe and sound
like a guardian angel should?

What if the delays
are no real reason for alarm
but interventions from above
that keep you free from harm?

What if all the pain you feel
is just a passing thing
and makes you that much stronger
and has lessons it could bring?

What if that winding gauntlet
were really fans lined up for miles
who wait the chance to cheer you on
and shower you with smiles?

And what if your perspective
is what decides your every day
what changes could you make
if you just see things a different way?

Choosing to accept the correct "what if" is the universal challenge in life. Many of us choose to focus on negative "what ifs." We say, "I want to play, but what if I lose?" "I want to try, but what if I fail?" "What if they're really rejecting me?" "What if there's really no one out there for me?" We chose these disempowering "what ifs" and choose to wallow in self-pity.

We could just as easily ask, "What if this works!" "What if I win?" or a thousand other "what ifs" that prepare you for a brighter future and that empower you to persist in the realization of your dream.

The trick to choosing the correct "what if" is to realize that delay is not denial and detours are not dead-ends. Despite whatever happens to you, you can keep seeking your ideal that lies beyond what appear to be blocks in the path.

But know also, that the "what ifs" you focus on, like everything else in life, are simply choices you make. And with those choices come consequences. If you are prepared to deal with the consequences of your choices, then life can never fail you. You'll realize that with the right perspective, everything works for you and toward your good. Thinking so makes it so.

So, today, make the choice of which "what if" will rule your every day by choosing the "what if" that empowers YOU and those you love. Don't ever give your power away.

Don't take offense over freedom of thought

By **BOB RAY SANDERS**

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

Some of the best people I know do not practice a religion. Several close friends are among the kindest, most generous individuals one could find, and yet they are not driven by the edicts of any deity or prophet, because they don't believe in a god.

A few of them are indeed "spiritual," but not in a religious sense.

It is great that we live in a country where people are allowed to worship freely or, if they so choose, fully reject the notion of a supreme being.

"Millions of Americans Are Good Without God"—so proclaims a new advertising theme sponsored by a coalition of atheist groups. The ad will begin appearing on four Fort Worth buses this week.

The message, intended to reach out to nonbelievers who may feel a little lonely or isolated, is one some Christians find offensive, especially coming at a time when they are preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus. They consider it derogatory, insensitive and too in-your-face.

News of the ad campaign quickly set off debates in the public square (talk radio) about whether people of faith should take umbrage at the mobile billboards, and whether the Fort Worth Transportation Authority (known as the T) should have accepted such an advertisement.

The T has a policy of accepting religious advertising. So it had no grounds on which to reject this ad. Besides, a T representative said,

"We do not discriminate among faiths or beliefs."

That's a good thing.

The Dallas-Fort Worth Coalition of Reason, the group responsible for the ads, met the T's criteria and had the money to pay for the production costs and the space on the side of the buses.

Other people or groups can do the same thing to get their message out, and I'm sure the transit authority would appreciate the business.

Why is the message "Millions of People Are Good Without God" considered insulting, regardless of what time of year it is promoted?

It doesn't offend me. It doesn't irritate me. It in no way shakes my own faith or causes me to resent anyone else because of theirs or their lack thereof.

I'm more bothered by "religious" people who talk a lot about God and then act in a most un-Godly way toward their fellow human beings.

It's offensive to me to hear the hypocrites in the pulpit who sermonize mightily against certain sins and sinners and yet in private they are practicing just the opposite of what they preach.

I would rather be around a good person who doesn't believe in God than to be around a religious person who doesn't demonstrate a belief in the worth of other people.

We often find it easy to condemn others, especially if they don't accept what we believe.

This is even true of people in the same faith—Christianity, Judaism, Islam and others.

Even sometimes within the same Christian denomination, the

slightest difference in interpretation of Scripture will cause one person to declare himself the "true (or saved) believer" while he declares his confused brother to be hell-bound.

Religious folk have long seen the nonbeliever as the heathen, the infidel and/or the devil incarnate. They often resent the thought of an atheist who dares articulate his or her nonfaith, seeing such a declaration as a slap in the face of Christians and God himself.

Whether or not you agree with the slogan "Millions of Americans Are Good Without God," you really shouldn't let it bother you.

The call by some ministers to boycott the buses is truly misguided. Will their churches provide daily transportation for people to get to work, school, medical facilities and grocery stores? I doubt it.

I'd like to think more Christians and other people of faith are like the Rev. Ralph Emerson, pastor of Rising Star Baptist Church, who said he is not offended by the ad.

"We just accept there are persons who just don't fit into where we fit in," Emerson said. "We'll pray for them and hope one day they'll come to see the light."






Just remember that this is America, a land where people can believe whatever they want to believe and a place where even the nonbeliever has a right to bear witness to his or her nonbelief.

Bob Ray Sanders is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Readers may write to him at: 400 W. 7th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, or via e-mail at bobray@star-telegram.com.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼79
Palau	Rain	▲85 ▼77
Yap	Rain	▲84 ▼76
Chuuk	Rain	▲84 ▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼74
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲89 ▼77
Majuro	Rain	▲84 ▼75

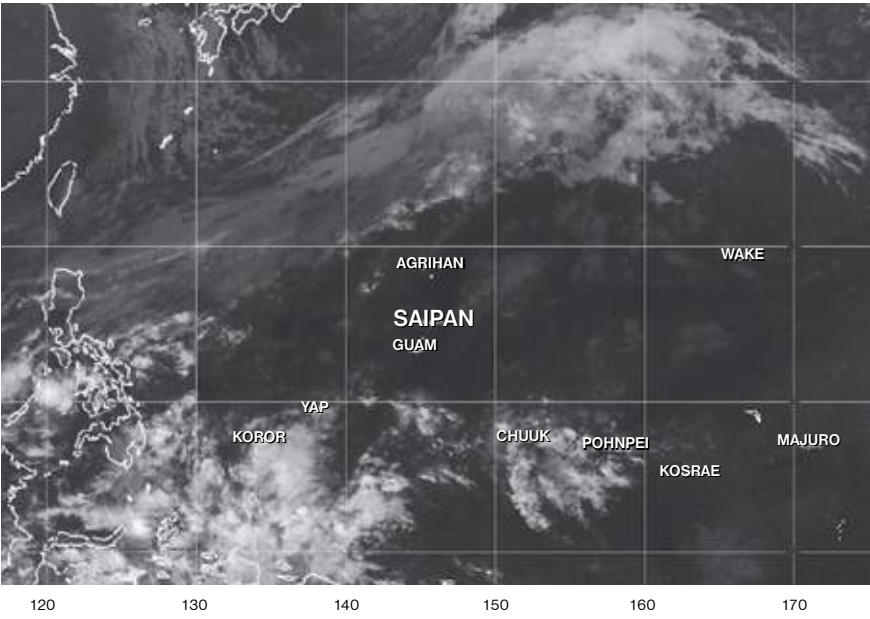
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲70 ▼61
Beijing	Windy	▲44 ▼19
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲71 ▼54
Honolulu	Showers	▲81 ▼72
London	Partly Cloudy	▲42 ▼35
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲69 ▼48
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼74
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲65 ▼54
Miami	Showers	▲70 ▼53
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲33 ▼23
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲54 ▼44
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲40 ▼30
Pusan	Windy	▲59 ▼37
Rome	Sunny	▲54 ▼39
Salem	Rain	▲51 ▼48
San Francisco	Showers	▲62 ▼56
Seoul	Showers	▲45 ▼27
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲54 ▼44
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲37 ▼31

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
3:52 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet	
11:07 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	
4:37 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet	
8:57 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends northeastward from EQ133E to 10N139E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found southeast of Koror and Yap or south of a line from 5N130E to 9N139E and between 2N and 4N from 141E to 145E. Another surface trough extends northeastward from 4N153E to 9N155E. Scattered showers are found over Chuuk and west of Pohnpei between 3N and 8N from 151E to 158E. A cold front extends southwestward from 25N146E to 130E at 16N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are occurring north of the CNMI and over Iwo To island along and up to 250 miles on either side of the front.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:31 AM	5:47 PM
Friday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Saturday	6:33 AM	5:47 PM
Sunday	6:33 AM	5:48 PM
Monday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:18 AM	8:59 PM
Friday	10:00 AM	9:49 PM
Saturday	10:39 AM	10:38 PM
Sunday	11:16 AM	11:24 PM
Monday	11:51 AM	

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

- CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
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 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	Daily	DL286	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/605	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/286	7:55am	8:25pm	Daily via NRT
C09317/891	2:45am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/933	7:55am	9:40pm	6 via GUM	OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM- Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM- Palau
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM- Palau	PR110/C0596	10:00pm	7:25am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
OZ606/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 5, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00am	1 via ICN	OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ606/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Community supports Sandy Beach Homes' QC application

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sandy Beach Homes LLC's application for a Qualifying Certificate with the Commonwealth Development Authority received overwhelming support from various private individuals and business representatives during a public hearing Tuesday morning.

CDA conducted the public hearing at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe as required by the Investment Incentive Act of 2000 attended by community members that were in favor of the approval of the application.

Former finance secretary Robert Schrack expressed his full support on the application, saying that the project provides economic and social benefits and the relief requested only covers a one-year period.

Michael Ada of Integrated Professional Solutions believes the economic value of the project "far outweighs" the tax relief that the project owner seeks.

Labor deputy secretary Cinta Kaipat said the agency supports every effort that provides more jobs for the people in the community, saying that the 166 jobs to be created by the project is "music to her ears."

Alex Sablan of Saipan Shipping Company noted that aside from the increase in property value, many local companies will benefit from the business that the project will generate.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director Kyle Calabrese said the Chamber

fully supports the project which allows and encourages world-class housing project on island, adding that the project demonstrates Triple J Saipan owner Robert Jones' long-term commitment to the CNMI.

CDA executive director Manuel Sablan also read during the public hearing the emails sent by former chief justice Jose S. Dela Cruz and Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Jose R. Lifofoi who both expressed their support for the project.

Bob Jones of Sandy Beach Homes LLC expressed his appreciation for all the comments that were in favor of their affordable housing project.

Jones said a big deterrent for the project is the 2 percent tax amounting to about \$500,000 which they would need to pay upfront should the application be rejected.

Despite this, Jones assured that the project will proceed as planned and provide tremendous opportunities for local contractors and the workforce.

"We hope to achieve the challenges we've been facing for this project," added Sablan.

In an interview, the CDA executive director told *Saipan Tribune* that the public hearing is proof of the community's support for the project.

"There were a lot of positive comments. These will be taken into consideration by the board on its next meeting this month," said Sablan.

Project presentation

During the public hearing, San-

dy Beach Homes LLC representative Michael Sablan made a presentation about the advantages of and benefits to the CNMI of the proposed Sandy Beach Homes Affordable Housing Project.

Sandy Beach Homes Affordable Housing Project aims to develop affordable housing units in proximity to amenities such as schools, jobs, shops, restaurants, and churches to be built on Laly 4 Beach, which Sablan said is one of Saipan's beautiful beaches.

The housing project, which will be situated along San Isidro Avenue in Chalan Kanoa behind the former Pacific Gardenia Hotel, involves the construction of two apartment buildings separated by a view corridor.

The \$28.2-million project will consist of 60 three-bedroom, two-bathroom units measuring 1,400 sq. ft. each on the six-floor buildings with above ground level parking. Project plan will also feature energy-efficient design and materials, including a solar water heater.

The Sandy Beach Homes Affordable Housing Project is owned by Sandy Beach Homes LLC, a new business entity established in June through the collaboration of Triple J Saipan Inc. and Ironwood Housing Partners Saipan LLC.

Sablan said IHP Saipan LLC is affiliated with the Guam-based company that has built over 300 homes in Guam in the last three years through the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program.

The LIHTC Program is used to subsidize the development of affordable rental housing for low-income households.

Sablan said the program has been around since 1986 and many LIHTC projects in Guam have been successful. On Saipan, however, there have only been failed attempts to avail of the program in the last three to four years.

Market study

According to Sablan, the market study conducted in May by the Atlanta-based Novogradac & Company LLP helped form the basis of the Sandy Beach Homes Affordable Housing Project.

Sablan said Novogradac representatives met with different government agencies and private realtors to determine the

housing needs on the island.

"The study showed that there is a demand for three-bedroom and larger affordable housing units because of the larger families on Saipan," he revealed.

Sablan said the last time that a private developer took on a low-income housing project was in the 1980s by way of the Fina Sisu Section 8 housing.

He said there are no other low-income housing projects from private developers because the return of investment is very nominal.

"As an investor or developer, you don't make money building homes and charging [only] \$700 a month," he added.

Sablan said that for their affordable housing project, all tenants need to meet income eligibility requirements and pay a monthly rent of \$774.

Project benefits

Sablan identified job creation and government revenues as among the benefits of the affordable housing project.

He said that for the construction phase will generate 166 jobs while the post-construction phase will give additional five jobs.

Aside from employment opportunities, Sablan said the affordable housing project will also generate income for the local government through the direct taxes during and after the project.

Sablan noted that direct taxes for the construction phase can amount up to \$944,069.

He said the target deadline for the multi-million project is Dec. 31, 2011. "We're very committed to meeting this deadline," he added.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Sandy Beach Homes LLC representative Michael S. Sablan conducts a presentation about the Sandy Beach Homes Affordable Housing Project during the public hearing for its Qualifying Certificate application conducted by Commonwealth Development Authority last Dec. 7.

Chamber extends deadline for Businessperson of the Year

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has extended the nomination deadline for its annual Businessperson of the Year award to tomorrow, Dec. 10.

The chamber said the past year has been a challenging one for businesses in the Commonwealth. It however said that a number of businesses have not only survived, but have gone after what little silver lining exists.

"When considering potential

nominees, please keep in mind that success in tough times is not always measured by business expansion," the organization said. "Some businesses may have taken the uncertainty brought about by the Consolidated Natural Resources Act as well as increasing minimum wages as an opportunity to substantially increase their hiring of local employees."

The chamber added that other businesses may have

streamlined their once diverse operations to focus on improving their core businesses, while others may have taken the availability of relatively inexpensive capital as an opportunity to upgrade their facilities.

It also advised members to "think creatively about how some of those that you know in the business community have made the best of a bad situation and should be recognized." (PR)

Obama struggles to keep Dems from killing tax cuts

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama struggled Tuesday to prevent wholesale defections by fellow Democrats that could sink the tax deal he worked out with Republicans—angry opposition that could subject millions of Americans to a big holiday-season tax increase.

Many GOP lawmakers seemed ready to embrace the Obama-GOP compromise and declare victory. The question was whether enough Democrats would join them in support, especially in the House, where liberal resentment of the president's concessions on tax breaks for the wealthiest runs strong.

Obama went on national TV to give a ringing defense of his compromise, declaring it the necessary price for heading off a tax

increase that neither taxpayers nor the weak economy could stand and for gaining more months of unemployment payments for millions of jobless workers.

The compromise plan would extend unemployment benefits for millions of people, and reduce Social Security payroll taxes for a year. Workers would pay a 4.2 percent tax rate instead of 6.2 percent.

Democratic leaders in the House criticized the tax plan, sometimes harshly, but stopped short of saying they would try to block it.

In a 35-minute news conference, Obama chastised liberals for seeking ideological purity that would cause legislative logjams on vital issues. He didn't spare Republicans, either, likening them

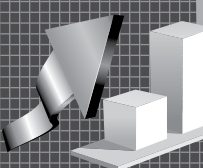
to "hostage takers" willing to hurt the great majority of Americans for the "holy grail" of extending tax cuts for millionaires.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was noncommittal before and after Obama's afternoon appearance, saying she would discuss the matter with fellow Democrats. "So far the response has not been very good," she said after meeting with other Democratic leaders.

Another House Democratic leader, Rep. Chris Van Hollen of Maryland, said he couldn't recommend the package to his colleagues.

Obama said no one is entirely happy with the compromise he crafted with Republicans, but "it's a good deal for the American people."

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

11,359.16
-3.03
-0.03%

S&P

1,223.75
0.00
0.00%

NASDAQ

2,598.49
0.00
0.00%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.0164
British Pound	0.6346
Canadian Dollar	1.0102
Chinese Yuan	6.6457
Euro	0.7541

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7646
Indian Rupee	44.645
Indonesian Rupiah	9002.5
Japanese Yen	83.514
Malaysian Ringgit	3.1428
New Zealand Dollar	1.3209

Philippine Peso	43.59
Singapore Dollar	1.3094
South Korean Won	1136.35
Swiss Franc	0.9873
Taiwan Dollar	30.1125
Thailand Baht	30.055

Nation

Elizabeth Edwards shared private pain with public

ACROSS THE NATION

4 teens killed and 1 injured in Conn. car crash

GRISWOLD, Conn. (AP)—A teen driving on a tree-lined road in rural Connecticut lost control and crashed into a tree Tuesday afternoon, killing four high school students and seriously injuring another, authorities said. Three of the victims were pronounced dead at the scene of the crash in Griswold, about 40 miles southeast of Hartford, said state police spokesman Lt. J. Paul Vance. Another was taken to a hospital and died there. The survivor is hospitalized in critical condition, he said. It's not clear whether the driver was killed. Police are not releasing the victims' names until Wednesday morning, after their families are notified.

Beating video shown at murder trial of Chicago boy

CHICAGO (AP)—The trial of a teen charged in the beating death of a 16-year-old Chicago honor student began Tuesday with jurors watching a video showing the teen punching the other boy in the face—a recording played around the world that drew attention to school violence. Prosecutors told jurors the teen was part of a mob that descended on Derrion Albert as he made his way home from school in September 2009. On the video, Albert could be seen being punched, slammed over his head with large boards, kicked and finally stomped on his head. “Those injuries acted together to cause the death of Derrion Albert,” Cook County assistant state’s attorney Lisa Morrison told the jury. “The damage inflicted on him was too much for his body to handle.”

Dozens look for Ill. mom missing since fatal crash

RANSOM, Ill. (AP)—Dozens of searchers braved frigid temperatures on Tuesday to search a remote area in northern Illinois for a 40-year-old mother of four who has been missing since a weekend car crash that killed her husband. Authorities say Tanya Shannon, of Ransom, may be dead and her body may be buried in the snow, but that they’re not ruling out that she may be alive. “It’s just one of those weird situations,” said Sergeant Jeff Whalen of the LaSalle County Sheriff’s office. “We have no idea what happened.”

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP)—Elizabeth Edwards lost her hair to cancer, her son to an accident, her husband to another woman.

No wonder she called one memoir “Resilience.” And another “Saving Graces.”

Edwards’ death Tuesday at age 61 ended a struggle of extraordinary and multiple dimensions, any one of which might have consumed the more faint-hearted. She had lived side by side with high political ambition, personal betrayal, advancing disease and single-minded determination, and in her last years built a network of supporters who took life lessons from her adversities.

A public figure to the end, Edwards said goodbye to them the day before, online, after doctors had concluded they could do no more to save her. They figured she might have weeks at best; she lived hours.

John Edwards, the man she had advised as a strategist and supported as a spouse through a Senate campaign and two runs for the presidency, joined the family by her side. The couple had separated about a year ago, their marriage and their shared dreams of power shattered by his affair with a campaign videographer and his eventual admission that he had fathered his lover’s child.

David “Mudcat” Saunders, a



In this Sept. 22, 2007 file photo, Elizabeth Edwards, then wife of Democratic presidential hopeful John Edwards, holds a round table conference with local teachers at Bow Memorial School in Bow N.H.

Court weighs constitutionality of gay marriage ban

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A line of questioning at an appeals court hearing over California’s gay marriage ban suggested the three judges could issue a decision that would legalize same-sex marriage in that state but leave intact bans in other western states under the court’s jurisdiction.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals heard nearly three hours of arguments Monday during a televised hearing that reached a nationwide audience anxious for a final decision on whether voter-approved Proposition 8 and similar same-sex marriage bans violate the U.S. Constitution.

The judges appeared troubled over whether they could recognize marriage as a civil right for all same-sex couples or only those in states that already grant gays the rights of marriage without the title.

Theodore Olson—who argued a portion of the case on behalf of the two same-sex couples who sued to overturn Proposition 8 and persuaded a lower court to strike it down—said denying gays the right to wed constitutes discrimination that cannot be justified under any circumstances.

“What this comes down to, it seems to me, is that California

has built a fence around its gay and lesbian citizens and it has built a fence around the institution of marriage, which the Supreme Court says, not based on procreation or anything else, is the most important relationship in life,” Olson said.

His oratory prompted Judge Stephen Reinhardt, the panel’s most liberal member, to ask if Proposition 8 were a unique case because it amended the California Constitution to outlaw same-sex marriages five months after the state Supreme Court had legalized them.

“Your closing speech would require a holding that any state that did not permit gay marriage would be in violation of the Constitution,” the judge said. “There is a possibility, I think in this case, that Proposition 8’s withdrawal of the right of marriage from gays and lesbians is unconstitutional under the circumstances that they enjoyed that right, that they are given every aspect of marriage and the only thing taken away is the honorific of marriage.”

Attorney Charles Cooper, who represents sponsors of the 2008 measure, argued that same-sex couples can be treated differently when it comes to marriage without running afoul of the Constitution because “sexual relationships between men and women natu-

rally produce children.”

“Society has no particular interest in a platonic relationship between a man and a woman no matter how close it might be, or emotional relationships between other people as well, but when the relationship becomes a sexual one, society has a considerable interest in that,” Cooper said.

Mondays’ hearing also focused on whether Proposition 8’s supporters have legal standing to challenge a lower court ruling that the ban was unconstitutional. The issue surfaced after outgoing California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Attorney General Jerry Brown both refused to challenge the ruling that overturned the ban.

The panel appeared dubious about whether the ban’s supporters were qualified to appeal but also seemed worried about allowing the governor and attorney general to effectively kill Proposition 8 by refusing to defend it.

Opponents of Proposition 8 contend it violates the due process and equal protection rights of gays and lesbians under the U.S. Constitution by denying them the right to marry the person of their choice and by singling them out for disparate treatment without a legitimate rationale.

political adviser and friend of the family, said Elizabeth Edwards’ health rapidly deteriorated over the last few weeks. During that period, her estranged husband and their adult daughter, Cate, came to be with her, Saunders said.

Elizabeth Edwards became an advocate in her own right for health care reform and for the poor, two issues that had driven her husband, too. In that work, she lacked his clout but also his baggage.

“Our country has benefited from the voice she gave to the cause of building a society that lifts up all those left behind,” President Barack Obama said.

Edwards was calculating and ambitious in her own right, as well. A shrewd attorney, Edwards contributed mightily to her husband’s rise in politics and acted conspicuously to prevent his fall, his partner in hiding a secret that would come out anyway.

Two books published about the 2008 campaign characterized her as shrill toward her husband and sometimes verbally abusive to campaign staff, especially as his run faltered and tabloid reports of his affair piled up.

In a riveting moment from the Democratic presidential primary campaign, the couple stood together in apparent harmony and loving mutual support in March

2007 to tell the country that her breast cancer, diagnosed in 2004, had returned, spread and could not be cured.

His campaign would press on, she said that day, because “it’s important that the American people have the opportunity to have a president like him.”

John Edwards quit the race after poor showings in the primaries that made Obama the Democratic nominee, and he and his wife retreated almost entirely from public life.

While she pleaded for privacy after revelations of his adultery, she also wrote a memoir—her second—that discussed how the affair repulsed her. She went on “The Oprah Winfrey Show” to talk about it, but only on the condition that Winfrey not mention the woman by name.

“Nothing will be quite as I want it, but sometimes we eat the toast that is burned on one side anyway, don’t we?” she wrote in the memoir “Resilience.”

Joe Trippi, a longtime Democratic campaign consultant whom Edwards recruited to work for her husband in 2008, recalled her driving spirit.

“She was out to live every single day,” Trippi said. “She was going to live every single one of them with all the energy and grit that she could. That’s a big lesson that her life could teach all of us.”

Chewing tobacco maker agrees to \$5M settlement

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—The maker of Skoal and Copenhagen smokeless tobacco has agreed to pay \$5 million to the family of a man who died of mouth cancer in what is believed to be the first wrongful-death settlement won from a chewing tobacco company.

A legal expert said the case could open the door for more lawsuits against makers of chewing tobacco, an industry that drew fewer legal battles during the 1990s than cigarette manufacturers.

U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Co. will pay the award to the family of Bobby Hill of Canton, N.C., who began chewing tobacco at 13. He died in 2003 at 42.

Attorney Antonio Ponvert III, who represented Hill’s relatives, told The Associated Press about the agreement Tuesday. Regulatory documents confirmed the deal.

Steven Callahan, a spokesman for Altria, which acquired U.S. Smokeless Tobacco last year, said the company admitted no liability and does not make any health claims about its products.

Ponvert and Mark Gottlieb, director of the Tobacco Products Liability Project at Northeastern

University in Boston, both said the Hill family settlement is the first case of its kind.

Gottlieb predicted more lawsuits targeting smokeless tobacco would follow, calling the settlement “a wake-up call” to plaintiffs’ attorneys “that there are a lot of victims of smokeless tobacco use out there, and it’s possible these cases can be successful.”

Smokeless tobacco companies managed to fend off most previous lawsuits. In the past, lawyers focused more on cigarette makers because of stronger evidence to back up their claims, even though smokeless tobacco is harmful as well, Gottlieb said.

“So this is an unusual instance and runs counter to what had been the sort of the playbook for tobacco litigation,” Gottlieb said. The settlement shows that “perhaps there is a new strategy afoot in terms of dealing with some of these types of cases.”

But, Gottlieb added, Altria may have simply concluded it was cheaper to settle than risk a larger award at trial.

Callahan said the case involved unique circumstances because it was a settlement offer made before Altria acquired the company.

Asia

NKorea holds apparent drill as US, SKorea talk

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea launched apparent artillery drills Wednesday as the top U.S. and South Korean military leaders held talks on the peninsula's security worries following a deadly North Korean artillery strike last month.

As the U.S. chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, and his South Korean counterpart Gen. Han Min-koo met behind closed doors in Seoul, North Korea staged apparent firing exercises near the disputed western sea border.

North Korean shells landed in the country's own waters north of South Korea's Baengnyeong island, a South Korean military official said. He spoke on condition of anonymity, citing military rules.

North Korea also carried out an apparent military exercise within sight of the South's Yeonpyeong Island last month fol-

lowing the artillery assault on the same island that killed four people. Artillery shots were heard three days later as Gen. Walter Sharp, the top U.S. commander in South Korea, toured the island in a show of solidarity with Seoul and to survey damage.

Mullen and Han, their militaries' top uniformed officers, met Wednesday morning, a military official said. They had been expected to discuss ways to deter future North Korean aggression, but the official did not give details of their discussions.

Their meeting came amid tensions that have erupted on the divided peninsula after North Korea's Nov. 23 artillery barrage on Yeonpyeong Island near the sea border.

The attack—the first since the 1950-53 Korean War to target a civilian area—killed two South Korean marines and two construction workers, and reduced many homes and shops

to charred rubble.

Meanwhile, the Obama administration announced that it would send its No. 2 diplomat and three other top officials to China next week for talks on North Korea. The trip comes as Washington presses a reluctant Beijing to do more to rein in its ally Pyongyang.

Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg will lead the delegation to Beijing for the talks, the State Department said Tuesday. Earlier Tuesday, Steinberg gave a talk to a Washington think tank in which he urged China to press North Korea harder on halting provocative acts.

The trip follows a meeting Monday between Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and the foreign ministers of Japan and South Korea in which they called on the North to stop "belligerent" behavior, including last month's attack. They also rejected China's call for immediate talks with North Korea, saying the North first needed

to prove its commitment to peace and return to six-nation nuclear disarmament talks.

Steinberg will be accompanied to China by the top Asia official at the National Security Council, Jeffrey Bader, the top U.S. diplomat for east Asia and the Pacific, Kurt Campbell, and the U.S. special envoy for six-party talks, Sung Kim.

After meeting with the Chi-

nese in Beijing, Steinberg and Bader will return to Washington on Dec. 17. Campbell will travel to Tokyo for talks with Japanese officials, and Kim will see South Korean officials in Seoul.

Pyongyang recently revealed a uranium enrichment facility—which could give it a second way to make atomic bombs. Despite that defiance, North Korea has indicated its

readiness to resume the negotiations on providing the regime with much-needed aid and other concessions in exchange for disarmament.

On Tuesday, South Korean President Lee Myung-bak promised to transform five islands that lie along the tense maritime border with North Korea into "military fortresses" impervious to North Korean attacks.



A North Korean soldier looks at the southern side through telescopes at the border village of the Panmunjom, South Korea, Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2010.

Police question brothers in India holy city blast

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—Police were questioning two brothers for their alleged involvement in a blast that killed a toddler and triggered a stampede that left many others wounded in a holy Indian city, a top police official said Wednesday.

The men were detained in Mumbai, India's financial hub, after investigators determined that an e-mail claiming responsibility for the blast in Varanasi town had been sent from a laptop belonging to the two, the official said. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

The bomb hidden in a metal canister exploded Tuesday evening as thousands gathered for a daily Hindu ritual on the banks of the Ganges River in Varanasi.

A banned Muslim terror

group allegedly claimed responsibility for the blast in the e-mail, which was sent to several media outlets soon after the blast. The police official said investigators were checking the veracity of the claim by the group, Indian Mujaheddin, that it was behind the blast.

The bomb was stashed in a milk container on the Sheela Ghat, one of many stone staircases leading to the Ganges river, the site of daily spiritual rituals, according to police official Brij Lal.

The explosion set off a stampede, and 19 people, including four foreigners, were wounded, Lal said. It was not immediately clear how many were hurt in the blast and how many in the subsequent chaos.

A 2-year-old who had been sitting on her mother's lap when

the bomb went off died in a hospital, Lal said. Her mother and two other people, including one of the foreigners, were in serious condition.

The force of the explosion ripped away a metal railing and damaged stones up to 200 feet (60 meters) away, said a witness, Ramatama Srivastava.

Srivastava—who spoke by telephone from Varanasi, which is about 180 miles (300 kilometers) southeast of the Uttar Pradesh state capital, Lucknow—said he noticed the foreigners were watching the Hindu prayer ceremony and taking photographs.

The ceremony is a daily ritual in Varanasi, the holiest city in the Hindu religion, during which priests and others light oil lamps, ring bells and chant prayers to worship the Ganges.

Muhamad Adnan Iberahim was trampled and died instantly. Pazil Abdul Patah, director of the Wildlife Department of northern Kelantan state, said Wednesday that this was the first such death recorded with the department in six years even though wild elephants roam freely in the forest reserve.

Japan probe reaches Venus but shuts itself down

TOKYO (AP)—A Japanese space probe sent to the thick clouds of Venus shut itself down, and its future looks as hazy as the planet it was built to study. The probe, called Akatsuki, which means "dawn," reached Venus on Tuesday to orbit Earth's neighbor on a two-year mission. But communication problems left scientists in the dark about whether it was successfully in orbit. An American scientist on the probe's research team said the probe shut itself partially down and is in safe mode. That means it is sending back signals indicating it is alive, but not transmitting any data.

Coal mine explosion kills 26 in central China

BEIJING (AP)—An explosion at a coal mine in central China killed 26 miners who were working despite an order to halt production, officials said Wednesday, while a mine tunnel collapse elsewhere left four dead in the latest accidents to strike the country's mining industry. The death toll from the blast that struck Tuesday evening at the operation in Henan province's Mianchi County doubled after 13 more bodies were found, said an official surnamed Li from the Henan Administration of Coal Safety.

Herd of elephants trample man to death in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—An official says a herd of elephants has trampled a fruit picker to death in a remote Malaysian jungle in the first such case in years. He says five men looking for fruit Monday were surprised by a herd of up to nine elephants. The others managed to run away but 26-year-old

China to award prize to rival Nobel

BEIJING (AP)—Only three weeks after the idea was first publicly floated, China has cobbed together its own peace prize and plans to award it Thursday—the day before the Nobel Committee honors an imprisoned Chinese dissident in a move that has enraged Beijing.

Since Liu Xiaobo's selection, China has vilified the 54-year-old democracy advocate, called the choice an effort by the West to contain its rise, disparaged his supporters as "clowns," and launched a campaign to persuade countries not to attend Friday's ceremony in Oslo. The government is also preventing Liu—who is serving an 11-year sentence for co-authoring a bold appeal for political reforms in the Communist country—and his family members from attending.

Amid the flurry of action came a commentary published on Nov. 17 in a Communist Party-approved tabloid that suggested China create its own award—the "Confucius

Peace Prize"—to counter the choice of Liu.

Three weeks later, The Associated Press has learned, China is doing just that.

Named after the famed philosopher, the new prize was created to "interpret the viewpoints of peace of (the) Chinese (people)," the awards committee said in a statement it released to the AP on Tuesday.

Awards committee chairman Tan Changliu said his group was not an official government body, but acknowledged that it worked closely with the Ministry of Culture. He declined to give specifics about the committee, when it was created and how the five judges were chosen, saying it would be disclosed later.

The first honoree is Lien Chan, Taiwan's former vice president and the honorary chairman of its Nationalist Party, for having "built a bridge of peace between the mainland and Taiwan." A staffer in his Taipei office said she could not comment Tuesday because she

knew nothing about the prize.

Chan was chosen from among eight nominees—some of whom are regularly mentioned for, or have already won, that other peace prize: billionaire Bill Gates, former South African President Nelson Mandela, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and the Panchen Lama, the second-highest figure in Tibetan Buddhism.

While China regularly disparages the Dalai Lama, the religion's spiritual leader, the current Panchen Lama is a 20-year-old who was hand-picked by Beijing. The original boy named by the Dalai Lama has disappeared.

"We should not compete, we should not confront the Nobel Prize, but we should try to set up another standard," said Liu Zhiqin, the Beijing businessman who suggested the prize in The Global Times. "The Nobel prize is not a holy thing that we cannot doubt or question. Everyone has a right to dispute whether it's right or wrong." Liu said in the phone interview that he was not involved in setting up the awards.



ASIAN BRIEFS



Liu

World

WikiLeaks founder is jailed in Britain in sex case

LONDON (AP)—WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange was arrested and jailed without bail Tuesday in a sex-crimes investigation, but his organization scarcely missed a beat, releasing a new batch of the secret cables that U.S. officials say are damaging America's security and relations worldwide.

A month after dropping out of public view, the 39-year-old Australian surrendered to Scotland Yard to answer a warrant issued for his arrest by Sweden. He is wanted for

questioning after two women accused him of having sex with them without a condom and without their consent.

Assange said he would fight extradition to Sweden, setting the stage for what could be a pitched legal battle. And as if to prove that it can't be intimidated, WikiLeaks promptly released a dozen new cables, including details of a NATO defense plan for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania that made Russia bristle.

The Pentagon welcomed Assange's arrest.

"That sounds like good news to me," U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said on a visit to Afghanistan.

WikiLeaks spokesman Kristinn Hrafnsson insisted Assange's arrest and the decision Tuesday by both Visa and MasterCard to stop processing donations to the group "will not change our operation." Hrafnsson said the group has no plans

yet to carry through on its threat to release en masse some of its most sensitive U.S. documents if it comes under attack.

At a court hearing in London, Assange showed no reaction as Judge Howard Riddle denied him bail while he awaits an extradition hearing Dec. 14. The judge said Assange might flee if released. When the judge asked him whether he would agree to be extradited, Assange said: "I do not consent."

It was not publicly known which jail Assange was sent to, since British police never reveal that for privacy and security reasons. Some prisoners occasionally get Internet access, though only under close supervision.

The U.S. government is investigating whether Assange can be prosecuted for espionage or other offenses. On Tuesday, Pentagon and State Department officials said some foreign officials have suddenly grown reluctant to

trust the U.S. because of the secrets spilled by WikiLeaks.

"We have already seen some indications of meetings that used to involve several diplomats and now involve fewer diplomats," said State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley. "We're conscious of at least one meeting where it was requested that notebooks be left outside the room."

Pentagon spokesman Col. Dave Lapan said the military had seen foreign contacts "pulling back."

"Believing that the U.S. is not good at keeping secrets and having secrets out there certainly changed things," Lapan said.

During the hour-long court hearing in London, attorney Gemma Lindfield, acting on behalf of the Swedish authorities, outlined the allegations of rape, molestation and unlawful coercion that were brought against Assange following separate sexual encounters in August

with two women in Sweden.

Lindfield said one woman accused Assange of pinning her down and refusing to use a condom on the night of Aug. 14 in Stockholm. That woman also accused of Assange of molesting her in a way "designed to violate her sexual integrity" several days later. A second

woman accused Assange of having sex with her without a condom while he was a guest at her Stockholm home and she was asleep.

A person who has sex with an unconscious, drunk or sleeping person in Sweden can be convicted of rape and sentenced to two to six years in prison.

UN's Ban at climate talks: 'We need results now'

CANCUN, Mexico (AP)—U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, trying to revive long-stalled climate talks, told world environment ministers on Tuesday he is "deeply concerned" that many years of negotiation have proven largely fruitless.

"The pace of human-induced climate change is accelerating. We need results now, results that curb global greenhouse emissions," Ban declared at the opening of high-level talks at the annual U.N. climate conference.

In the two-week session's final days, environment ministers will seek agreement on knotty side issues in coping with global warming, but once more the U.N. climate treaty's 193 parties will fail at Cancun to produce a sweeping deal to slash greenhouse gas emissions and control climate change.

"I am deeply concerned that our efforts so far have been insufficient," the U.N. chief said.

"Nature will not wait while we negotiate," he said. "Science warns that the window of opportunity to prevent uncontrolled climate change will soon close."

Earlier Tuesday, the U.N. environment chief, Achim Steiner, reminded the conference that countries' current, voluntary pledges to reduce emissions would, at best, offer the world

limited protection against serious damage from shifts in climate.

Another reminder came from the mountains of south Asia: In a new report, experts said people's lives and livelihoods are at "high risk" as warming melts Himalayan glaciers, sending floods crashing down from overloaded mountain lakes and depriving farmers of steady water sources.

Low-lying Pacific island states, in particular, are losing shoreline to rising seas, expanding from heat and the runoff of melting land ice. Following Ban to the podium, President Marcus Stephen of Nauru, one of those states, said the reality of climate change has been lost in scientific, economic and technical jargon.

"Without bold action, it will be left to our children to come up with the words to convey the tragedy of losing our homelands when it didn't have to be this way," he said.

Despite such evidence of growing impacts, and scientists' warnings that temperatures will rise sharply in this century, nations have made little progress over the past decade toward a new global pact on emissions cuts to replace the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. The Republican rebound in Washington promises to delay action even further.



Julian Assange

Founder of WikiLeaks whistleblower website

Early life

Born Townsville, Australia, 1971

Early recognition As a teen, gained reputation as sophisticated computer programmer

Education Attended Melbourne University to study mathematics and physics

Family Had child at 18 with his then girlfriend

Described as highly intelligent, determined, intense and paranoid

Arrested in 1995 and pled guilty to hacking; fined but avoided prison on condition he did not re-offend

Creating WikiLeaks

Began WikiLeaks in 2006 with group of people across the web; workings of website remain secret

Released documents on corruption and human rights abuses in Kenya, Guantanamo Bay procedures and nuclear accidents in Iran

2010 Released video of U.S. troops killing Iraqi civilians and journalists; documents on Afghanistan War; thousands of classified U.S. diplomatic cables

Surrendered to London police as part of a Swedish sex-crimes investigation in Dec. 2010

Source: Reuters, BBC, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Melina Yingling © 2010 MCT



A British police officer secures the area as a van exits the City of Westminster Magistrates Court in London where Wikileaks founder Julian Assange's case was heard, Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2010.

Haiti cholera likely from UN troops, expert says

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—A contingent of U.N. peacekeepers is the likely source of a cholera outbreak in Haiti that has killed at least 2,000 people, a French scientist said in a report obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press.

Epidemiologist Renaud Piarroux concluded that the cholera originated in a tributary of Haiti's Artibonite river, next to a U.N. base outside the town of Mirebalais. He was sent by the French government to assist Haitian health officials in determining the source of the outbreak, a French Foreign Ministry official said Tuesday.

"No other hypothesis could be found to explain the outbreak of a cholera epidemic in this village ... not affected by the earthquake earlier this year and located dozens of kilometers from

the coast and (tent) camps," he wrote in a report that has not been publicly released.

The report also calls for a further investigation of the outbreak, improved medical surveillance and sanitation procedures for U.N. peacekeeping troops and better support for Haitian health authorities.

The AP obtained a copy of the report from an official who released it on condition of anonymity. Piarroux confirmed he had authored the report but declined in an e-mail interview to discuss his findings. Copies were sent to U.N. and Haitian officials, the foreign ministry confirmed.

U.N. spokesman Martin Nesirky told reporters in New York that there is still no conclusive evidence that its base was the

source of the outbreak. He said the organization "remains very receptive to any scientific debate or investigation on this."

The report's revelation comes on a day of high tensions in Haiti, as people anxiously await the results of the disputed Nov. 28 presidential election and potential resulting violence.

Piarroux could not prove there was cholera inside the base or among the soldiers, a point the U.N. has repeatedly used to deny its soldiers brought the disease to Haiti or that its sanitation procedures were responsible for releasing it into the environment. He writes that military doctors said there were no instances of cholera within the unit.

But he also hinted strongly at a cover-up.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran agrees to 2011 talks in Turkey

GENEVA (AP)—Iran and six world powers concluded talks with an agreement to reconvene early next year in Istanbul, indicating Tehran may be willing to address concerns about its nuclear program. But Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad warned that unless U.N. sanctions are lifted the six face failure in the next round. Diplomats from delegations at the table with Iran said Tehran made no commitments to talking about U.N. Security Council demands that Tehran freeze uranium enrichment—which has both civilian and military uses. "We didn't get anywhere on substance," said one of the officials, after Tuesday's talks. "It was an exchange of views."

US officials met with alleged boy hitman in Mexico

JIUTEPEC, Mexico (AP)—U.S. Embassy officials met with Mexico's alleged child assassin to check on his welfare and provide him with information on a lawyer in the case that he is an American, a spokesman said Tuesday. Mexican offi-

cials and his family say the boy, 14, who claims he carried out at least four executions, was born in the United States even though he spent much of his childhood in Mexico. But Embassy spokesman Alexander Featherstone said his citizenship has not been determined, and U.S. officials met with the teen on Monday to offer him consular assistance "in case he is a U.S. citizen."

Nigeria charges former US VP Cheney over bribery

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—Nigeria's anti-corruption agency on Tuesday charged former U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney over a bribery scheme involving oil services firm Halliburton Co. during the time he served as its top executive, a spokesman said. The charges stem from a case involving as much as \$180 million allegedly paid in bribes to Nigerian officials, said Femi Babafemi, a spokesman for the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission. Halliburton and other firms allegedly paid the bribes to win a contract to build a \$6 billion liquefied natural gas plant in Nigeria's oil-rich southern delta, he said.

Focus

US fails to tackle student visa abuses

By **HOLBROOK MOHR, MITCH WEISS and MIKE BAKER**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (AP)—Lured by unsupervised, third-party brokers with promises of steady jobs and a chance to sightsee, some foreign college students on summer work programs in the U.S. get a far different taste of life in America.

An Associated Press investigation found students forced to work in strip clubs instead of restaurants. Others take home \$1 an hour or even less. Some live in apartments so crowded that they sleep in shifts because there aren't enough beds. Others have to eat on floors.

They are among more than 100,000 college students who come to the U.S. each year on popular J-1 visas, which supply resorts with cheap seasonal labor as part of a program aimed at fostering cultural understanding.

Government auditors have warned about problems in the program for 20 years, but the State Department, which is in charge of it, only now says it is working on new rules. Officials won't say what those rules are or discuss on the record the problems that have plagued J-1 visas.

John Woods, deputy assistant director of national security for Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, told the AP there were at least two federal investigations under way into human trafficking related to J-1 visas. He would not provide details.

The AP interviewed students, advocates, local authorities and social service agencies, and reviewed thousands of pages of confidential records, police reports and court cases. Among the findings:

■ Many foreign students pay recruiters to help find employment, then don't get work or wind up making little or no money at menial jobs. Labor recruiters charge students exorbitant rent for packing them into filthy, sparsely furnished apartments so crowded that some endure "hotbunking," where they sleep in shifts.

Students routinely get threatened with deportation or eviction if they quit, or even if they just complain too loudly. Some resort to stealing essentials like food, toothpaste and underwear, according to police.

"The vast majority of participating students in this program find it a rewarding experience and return home safely," the State Department said in an e-mail to the AP.

But it's not hard to find exceptions. Most of the nearly 70

students the AP interviewed in 10 states, hailing from 16 countries, said they were disappointed, and some were angry.

"This is not what I thought when I paid all this money to come here," said Natalia Berlinschi, a Romanian who came to the U.S. on a J-1 visa hoping to save up for dental school but got stuck in South Carolina this summer without a job. She took to begging for work on the Myrtle Beach boardwalk and sharing a three-bedroom house with 30 other exchange students.

"I was treated very, very badly," Berlinschi said. "I will never come back."

The State Department failed to even keep up with the number of student complaints until this year, and has consistently shifted responsibility for policing the program to the 50 or so companies that sponsor students for fees that can run up to several thousand dollars. That has left businesses to monitor their own treatment of participants.

The program generates millions for the sponsor companies and third-party labor recruiters.

Businesses that hire students can save 8 percent by using a foreign worker over an American because they don't have to pay Medicare, Social Security and unemployment taxes. The students are required to have health insurance before they arrive, another cost that employers don't have to bear.

Many businesses say they need the seasonal work force to meet the demand of tourist season.

"There's been a massive failure on the part of the United States to bring any accountability to the temporary work visa programs, and it's especially true for the J-1," said Terry Coonan, a former prosecutor and the executive director of Florida State University's Center for the Advancement of Human Rights.

The issues are serious enough that the former Soviet republic of Belarus told its young people in 2006 to avoid going to the U.S. on a J-1, warning of a "high level of danger" after one of its citizens in the program was murdered, another died in what investigators in the U.S. said was a suicide, and a third was robbed.

■ Strip clubs and adult entertainment companies openly solicit J-1 workers, even though government regulations ban students from taking jobs "that might bring the Department of State into notoriety or disrepute."

"If you wish to dance in USA as a J-1 exchange visitor, contact us," ZM Studios, a broker



In this photo taken Aug. 24, 2010, Olga Nevdakha, from left, Tetiana Pasichnyk, and Iuliia Bolgaryna are seen in Surf City, N.C. The three Ukrainian ladies traveled to North Carolina on a J-1 Visa to work at a Waves store in Surf City although things didn't work out as they had expected.

for topless dancers, advertised on its website this year. The ad said ZM Studios is "affiliated with designated visa sponsors" and can get women J-1 visas and jobs at topless clubs in cities like Las Vegas and Los Angeles.

ZM Studios president Julian Andreev denied employing J-1 students in an e-mail to the AP, but the company's site on Friday still guaranteed help getting visas for prospective dancers, noting that they need a J-1 or one of two other types of visas to work legally.

J-1 students have been recruited to smuggle cash that authorities said was stolen from U.S. bank accounts, court records show, and their identities have been used in a million-dollar income tax scam.

"It's difficult to prosecute these cases because the workers usually leave the country within a few months. That's why the J-1 is the ideal visa to exploit," Coonan said.

In the worst cases, students get funneled into sexual slavery.

The J-1 Summer Work and Travel program, which allows college students to visit for up to four months, is one of the State Department's most popular visas. Participation has boomed from about 20,000 in 1996 to a peak of more than 150,000 in 2008.

The visas are issued year-round, since students come from both hemispheres on their summer breaks. They work all over the country, at theme parks in Florida and California, fish factories in Alaska and upscale ski destinations in Colorado and Montana.

The influx has been especially overwhelming for some resort towns.

In Maryland, the Ocean City Baptist Church served more than 1,700 different J-1 participants from 46 countries who

sought free meals this summer, sometimes upward of 500 in one night, said Lynn Davis, who leads the food ministry.

Down the coast in Virginia Beach, Va., a homeless shelter that typically feeds 100 people a day was serving twice that many this summer as the site became overrun with J-1 students. The Judeo-Christian Outreach Center began running out of food on some days and was forced to limit how often the students could eat there, said Tony Zontini, the shelter's assistant director.

Hotels, restaurants and other businesses often hire third-party labor recruiters to supply the J-1 workers. Many of those brokers are people from the students' native countries, often former Soviet bloc nations.

These middlemen commonly dock students' pay so heavily for lodging, transportation and other necessities that the wages work out to \$1 an hour or less, according to George Collins, an inspector at the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Department in the Florida Panhandle who has worked cases involving J-1 students since 2001.

Collins, who once notified the State Department that "J-1 abuse is epidemic here," told the AP the same companies often exploit students year after year despite his reporting them.

For years, the State Department has refused to publicly discuss problems in the program in any kind of detail.

The AP asked the State Department in a Freedom of Information Act request in March 2009 for a full list of complaints related to the program. In May, more than a year later, the department finally responded that it kept no such list, and that it keeps records related to the program for only three years.

Last month, the department

said it had finally created a database of complaints.

"It turns out that until this year, we did NOT keep a record of complaints. Now, we do," Marthana Cowart, a senior adviser for the department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, said in a Nov. 10 e-mail.

Cowart did not provide a copy of the complaint database to the AP or indicate how many complaints it included. And the department declined to discuss the AP's findings on the record.

"We are deeply concerned by any allegations involving the poor treatment of participants as this potentially undermines our goal of promoting mutual understanding and goodwill between the people of the United States and the people of other countries," the department said Friday in declining an interview request.

For the many J-1 women who end up working in strip clubs, whether by choice or force, the changes can't come soon enough.

In Florida, a 19-year-old Russian told the AP she went to work as a cocktail waitress this summer at a topless bar in Fort Walton Beach because the souvenir shop where she worked didn't pay much and the shop owner had her living in a crowded, run-down apartment.

She gave the AP only her first name, Oleysa, because she hadn't told her parents.

"My father doesn't know where I work," she said, lowering her gaze to a tray of beers and mixed drinks.

A Ukrainian woman who said she was forced to strip in Detroit asked the AP to identify her only as Katya, because she fears for her life.

Katya, who used the same alias when testifying to Congress in October 2007 about

how sex trafficking brought her to the U.S., said she was studying sports medicine in Kiev back in 2004 when her boss told her about the J-1 program.

Instead of waitressing for a summer in Virginia as she'd been promised, however, Katya and another student were forced to strip at a club in Detroit. Their handler confiscated their passports and told them they had to pay \$12,000 for the travel arrangements and another \$10,000 for work documents, according to court records.

Katya said he eventually demanded she come up with \$35,000 somehow, by dancing or other means.

"I said, 'That's not what I signed here for. That's not right.' He said, 'Well, you owe me the money. I don't care how I get it from you. If I have to sell you, I'll sell you.'"

The women were told that if they refused, their families in Ukraine would be killed, Katya said.

Over the next months, the two men beat the women, threatened them with guns and made them work at Cheetah's strip club, court records state. Katya said one of the men also forced her to have sex, a memory she still struggles with.

The two men are now in prison, and Katya's old boss in Ukraine is a fugitive. Katya was allowed to stay on a different visa designed for victims of human trafficking and other crimes, and her mother was allowed into the U.S. because of threats on her life in Ukraine.

Even J-1 students who avoid physical or sexual abuse often face other challenges.

Exchange student Munkh-Erdene Battur said he and four others were fired from their fast-food jobs last year in Riverton, Wyo., after complaining about living in what looked like a converted garage and paying \$350 apiece per month for the accommodations.

"In my whole life, I've never lived in that kind of place and that kind of conditions," said Battur, who is from Mongolia.

Iuliia Bolgaryna came to work this summer at a souvenir store on the outskirts of Surf City, N.C.

The store manager offered to let her and two other women from the Ukraine stay with him for \$120 a week. But he wouldn't let them eat at the table, so they huddled together for meals on the floor. They worked loads of overtime but were only paid for 40 hours a week.

The store manager declined to comment.

"It was almost normal that he screamed, that we worked 14 hours, that we ate on the floor," she said. "That was our America."

Environment

Traditional knowledge in times of doubt

»My experience at the Pacific Wayfinders Conference

By SHARISSE RIVERA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

From Nov. 10 to 13, I was nominated to represent the Micronesia Challenge Young Champion Program at the Pacific Wayfinders Conference in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Drawing from the Pacific Peoples' Partnership, the conference examined peace, human dignity, cultural integrity, social justice and environmental sustainability.

The opening ceremony was held at the Alchergia Gallery. There, I joined numerous people of different cultures and of different places. Displayed in this gallery were mosaic artworks from various artists of the Pacific and from the different coasts of Canada. The most captivating artwork to me was the war canoe. It was a direct representation of multicultural impacts. The war canoe was made by John Marston from the Coast Salish territory and Claytus Yambon from Papua New Guinea.

The second day of the conference was held at the University of Victoria. The university was beautiful with lots of bunnies and squirrels freely moving around. Besides my low toler-



Sharisse Rivera of the CNMI is joined by other delegates to the Pacific Wayfinders Conference in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

ance for cold weather, I was nervous because I had to give a speech that day. Even though I had practiced my speech a couple times, I still had butterflies in my stomach. But then, a wonderful man gave a very nice opening talk about navigation that boosted my confidence

In his speech on navigation, I learned the importance of traditional knowledge; through the use of the stars, he was able to find his way. Even in times of doubt, his knowledge and instincts never failed him.

As a speaker under the indignant environmental steward-

ship, I not only taught, I also learned. After introducing what the Micronesia Challenge and the Young Champion Program was, I had a privilege to sit and absorb the different strategies that were used in conserving our natural resources. One of the most notable was presented by

one of the chiefs of the First Nations, where they took the lead to conserve the environment and limit the use of fossil fuels by installing a 75kW photovoltaic array, the largest in British Columbia, which sells clean renewable energy to the community. I've also learned from another speaker the importance of conserving fresh water and how our selfish water usage is negatively affecting our lives now.

Media was one of the conference topics. A speaker from Papua New Guinea caught my attention because she emphasized how hard it is to communicate in their hometown. Papua New Guinea has approximately 800 languages. Media, such as newspapers, films and stories, is used as a tool to communicate with everyone. Media gave the public the true facts about what had been going on in the communities. It was used to unite the communities by lessening the impact of language barriers.

A couple films were also shown during the conference. There was one shocking film that talked about the people from West Papua and how blood is shed to get the rights they longed for since their ancestors' time. Special guests from West Papua attended the conference and talked about the hardships they are currently

facing. Another was an informative film on the impact of AIDS in the Pacific as shown by the Pacific Islands AIDS Foundation. Through this film I learned there is a high percentage of people on our islands that have AIDS. The other film, titled *The Land Has Eyes*, talked about a young, smart, strong, and devoted Rotuman girl. The movie showed a lot of symbolism that is important to the culture of the Rotuman. I was so surprised when the director said the film was based on his life story. Yes! The director is a man and since he is the director and writer, he had the will to change the characters as he wants. The film was wonderful. The final speaker of the conference was very inspiring because he overcame hardships to become a successful filmmaker and director. He opened my eyes to the wonderful things that life can bring. He showed me that with hard work and perseverance, we can achieve our goals in life no matter how big the hindrance might be. He is currently the director of the Oceania Center for Arts and Culture at the University of South Pacific.

I have gained valuable experience through this conference and plan to use this newfound knowledge to benefit my school and my island.

Coast Guard working on ways to prevent whale and ship collisions

By NADIA DRAKE
SAN MATEO COUNTY TIMES, CALIF.

SAN MATEO, Calif.—Blue whales are the largest animals on the planet. An adult whale weighs hundreds of thousands of pounds—the weight of 30 elephants—and can be as long as three school buses.

But the majestic creatures are no match for the behemoth cargo ships speeding along the Northern California coast.

Since July, at least five whales have been killed by ships in local waters—the same number killed over the previous five years combined. The toll includes a mother blue whale and her fetus, which washed ashore in Pescadero. A fin whale washed ashore at Ocean Beach with a crumpled spine, and what scientists believe was another fin was dragged headless into the Port of Oakland across the bow of a cargo ship. A humpback was spotted floating near the Farallon Islands with crisscrossing propeller gouges.

What's behind the rise in the deadly encounters between the giants at sea is surprisingly puny: Whales are following a bumper crop of krill—tiny shrimplike organisms—right into the paths of high-traffic shipping lanes outside the ports of Oakland and San



Jodi Frediani, of Bonny Doon, is dwarfed by the Blue Whale carcass that washed ashore on Bean Hollow Beach south of Pescadero, California.

Francisco. As a result, government agencies such as the U.S. Coast Guard are now considering changing the lanes and other ship traffic rules to keep the endangered mammals safe.

Zeke Grader, executive director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, said marine life overall is a sight to behold this year. "When something like krill blooms, it affects everything else in the food chain," Grader said. "Fishermen with 40 or 50 years of experience—old salty hands—are telling me it's like nothing they've ever seen before."

This past summer and fall, "the whales were phenomenal—abso-

lutely phenomenal," said Roger Thomas, captain of the whale-watching vessel *The Salty Lady*.

Marine biologists say the increased sightings don't reflect a rebound in whale populations, but rather a shift in where whales spend time.

The number of whales killed is probably higher than reported. Unlike terrestrial mammals strewn across the highway, dead marine mammals rarely stick around as evidence of collisions.

"What we do see is likely to be a fraction of the total number," said John Calambokidis, a scientist with the Cascadia Research Collective in Olympia, Wash. "A lot go undocumented."

Do Your Part this season of lights

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Ahhh ... the holidays are here and it's no wonder why this time of year is called the Season of Lights. Bright lights are absolutely everywhere you look. They're strung up outside the packed malls, on trees in our neighborhoods, and inside our homes. No one at my house likes the chore of untangling our holiday lights and checking for broken bulbs. And, I don't like the extra energy traditional strands of lights use. Do Your Part this holiday season and shop for more efficient and durable lights.

If you still have a few of those old holiday light strands for inside or outside your home—use them. That's the greenest option. But, if you need to replace broken strands or just need more lights, consider upgrading to the much more efficient Energy Star LED lights. LED—or light emitting diodes—use 70 percent less energy than incandescent strings. They're also much more durable and will last about 10 times longer than the conventional ones. And, because they are cool to the touch, they are much less of a fire hazard.

Sure, LED lights will cost you a bit more in the short run but certainly make up for it in a few years. Plus, they are cheaper now than ever before. However, there are a few ways to offset your costs. Some big box stores and even some municipalities are offering incentives to trade in those energy sucking holiday lights for energy-efficient LEDs. Another alternative can be found at HolidayLEDs.com. The online retailer will

once again accept and recycle old incandescent holiday lights and send you a discount good toward a new set of LEDs.

Another way you can give your incandescent set a new life is to donate it to a charity. Lights for Life is a non-profit that collects and recycles old holiday lights in order to raise funds for children diagnosed with cancer. You can also mail in your old lights to Christmas Light Source's recycling program. The company uses the proceeds from recycling efforts to purchase books to donate to the Marines Toys for Tots. Holiday lights are also accepted at your local Goodwill. Visit DoYourPart.com/columns to get a list of regional programs and other recycling resources too.

When shopping for new lights, don't forget about the other holiday decorations that use bulbs. There are more varieties than ever of the electric candles that have LED lights. You can also find LED menorahs, garlands, and even flameless tea lights. If you want to go even greener, there are some stores and online sites, which offer solar powered holiday LED lights. With most of us having the electric variety, remember to always unplug your lights before bed. There's no need to waste electricity when no one is enjoying the display.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, syndicated columnist, and host of *DoYourPart.com* where you can find everyday green living ideas that are better for you and the planet. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com.



If you need to replace broken strands or just need more lights this holiday season, consider upgrading to the much more efficient LED lights.

Life & Style

Audubon's 'Birds of America' fetches \$10 million



AP
Sotheby's employees pose for photographs with three volumes of a copy of Audubon's 'Birds of America' at the auction house's premises in London, Monday, Dec. 6, 2010.

LONDON (AP)—It's quite a nest egg. John James Audubon's "Birds of America," a rare blend of art, natural history and craftsmanship, fetched more than \$10 million at auction on Tuesday, making it the world's most expensive published book.

With its 435 hand-colored illustrations of birds drawn to size, the volume is one of the best preserved editions of Audu-

bon's 19th-century masterpiece. The sale at Sotheby's auction house had been anticipated for months by wealthy collectors.

The book sold for \$10,270,000 (6.5 million pounds) to an anonymous collector bidding by telephone, the auction house said.

Because each picture is so valuable, there have been fears the volume will be broken up and sold as separate works of

art. However, experts believe that's unlikely. The tome is probably more valuable intact. And collectors hold Audubon in such reverence that the notion of ripping apart a perfect copy would be akin to sacrilege.

"Audubon's 'Birds' holds a special place in the rare book market," said Heather O'Donnell, a specialist with Bauman Rare Books in New York. "The book is a major original contribution to the study of natural history in the New World."

"It's also one of the most visually stunning books in the history of print: The scale of the

images, the originality of each composition, the brilliance of the hand coloring."

Then there's the wow factor.

"No one can rival John James Audubon for frontier glamour," O'Donnell said. "The story of his lonely journey through the American wilderness and his struggle to record what he saw there gives the 'Birds' a resonance that no other book can match."

Part naturalist and part artist, Audubon possessed an unequalled ability to observe, catalog and paint the birds he observed in the wild. Experts say his book, originally pub-

lished in 1827, is unmatched in its beauty and is also of considerable scientific value, justifying its stratospheric price tag.

Pom Harrington, owner of the Peter Harrington rare book firm in London, said it has been 10 years since the last complete edition of "Birds of America" was auctioned, going for a then-record \$8.8 million.

He said it is unusual to find a copy not in a museum or academic institution.

"If you want to buy an example of a rare work of art, this is one of the best," he said. "It is valuable in its artistic nature because it is so well drawn."

He said other historic books—such as an excellent example of a Gutenberg Bible—would likely be valued even higher if they came up for sale.

Harrington estimated that a complete Gutenberg Bible in good condition would probably sell for between \$30 million and \$50 million, but none has been sold in more than 30 years. In recent years, he said, a complete First Folio of Shakespeare's works sold at auction for about \$5.6 million while a Chaucer collection sold for more than \$4 million.

"That's getting close to Audubon," he said.

NY photographer of young, nude Brooke Shields dies

NEW YORK (AP)—Garry Gross, a fashion photographer known for his 1970s nude images of Brooke Shields, taken when she was 10 years old, has died in Manhattan, his sister said Tuesday. He was 73.

His sister, Linda Gross, said he died Nov. 30 from a heart attack at his home in the Greenwich Village neighborhood. "He'll be sorely missed by family and friends alike," his sister said when reached by The Associated Press by telephone at his studio.

Though Garry Gross earned his reputation as a celebrity image-maker—his pictures graced the covers of albums by Whitney Houston and Lou Reed—in 2002 he switched careers and became certified as a dog trainer.

Most recently, he had turned to photographing portraits of canines, including such notable dogs as talk show host Rachael Ray's pit bull Isaboo.

But it was the 1970s images of Shields that marked his career most significantly.

In 1975, the actress' mother, Teri Shields, consented to allow her daughter, then a child

model, to be photographed nude for a Playboy Press publication. She and her mother earned \$450 for the shoot, which included a full-frontal nude image of the girl standing in a bathtub.

When Shields' acting career took off years later, she said she was embarrassed by the continued circulation of the images. At 17, Shields sued Gross in New York to stop him from selling the images, arguing they were an invasion of her privacy and caused her embarrassment.

But after a lower court granted her an injunction, the state's Court of Appeals decided 4 to 3 that the teenager could not break the contract signed by her mother that allowed Gross to take the pictures.

The court said Gross could continue to market the photos except to pornographic publications.

The photo shoot continued to make headlines decades later. In 2009, one of the images, appropriated by American artist Richard Prince for a work, had to be withdrawn by the Tate Modern museum in London after Scotland Yard warned that the image could break obscenity laws.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In Celebration of His New Life

DANIEL SANTOS BORJA, JR.

BETTER KNOWN AS "DANNY OR JUN"

February 26, 1962 – November 19, 2010

Joined his Creator in Hayward, California

In his new life, he now, joins his:

Father: Daniel Tudela Borja (Tuhu)
Mother: Joaquina Sablan Santos Borja (Maka)
Sister: Victoria Santos Borja Aguon
Brother-In-Law: Juan Cruz Aguon
Sister-In-Law: Leticia May Cabrera Borja
Paternal Grandparents: Vicente Diaz Borja
 Victoria Sablan Tudela Borja
 Angelina Flores Borja
Maternal Grandparents: Juan Quichocho Santos
 Maria Delos Reyes Sablan Santos
Godparents: Benbal Salas and Maria Tenorio Borja
 Pedro Torres Sablan

He is survived by his:

Brothers, Sisters, In-Law and their Children:

Vicente S. Borja (Joaquina Marie C. Borja & Randy Sablan, Sandy C. Borja & Tania Aguon, Lucretia C. Borja & Jesse S. Guererro)
 †Victoria Borja and †Juan Aguon (Frances B. & Oscar Pangelinan, Joaquina Carmen B. Aguon & Isidoro Cabrera and John B. Aguon & Yvonne Demello)
 Jose S. & Nancy Borja (Kina Jolene Borja & Rob Dillon, Kendra Rita Borja and Jaret Tomas Borja)
 Juan S. & Nicolasa B. Borja (Kina Ann Borja & Marco Peter, Perry John B. Borja and Thomas Jude B. Borja)
 Maria Borja & Jose H. Salas (Joaquina Margaret B. Salas, Joseph B. Salas, Daniel B. Salas, Michael B. Salas)
 Ines Borja & Thomas Castro (Joaquina Marie B. Castro)
 Roman S. & Anita A. Borja (Yeshua A. Borja and Montana A. Borja)

Best Friends: Dicta Tenorio and Family; Joe & Cecil Lifofoi & Family; Nancy Rosario & Family; Sid Fejeran & Family

He is additionally survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, godchildren and friends here and in the mainland U.S.A.

Daily mass is being offered at 6:00 a.m. at Kristo Rai Church.

On Saturday, December 11, 2010, a Memorial Service will be held at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 8:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. followed by Interment Services at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank You.

THE FAMILY

Oprah begins her 'ultimate' Australian adventure

SYDNEY (AP)—Oprah Winfrey landed in Australia on Wednesday, joining 300 eager audience members for her ultimate giveaway—an action-packed, Down Under adventure including close encounters with kangaroos, surfing lessons and a journey to the remote and dusty Outback.

Winfrey kicked off her 25th and final season of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" in September by surprising her shrieking, jumping and sobbing fans with what she's billed as the trip of a lifetime. The hand-picked audience, who arrived in Sydney on Tuesday, was made up of some of who the program called its most loyal viewers over the years.

Winfrey landed in the northeast coastal city of Cairns, and was expected to head directly to Hamilton Island, on the Great Barrier Reef, to join some audience

members awaiting her arrival.

The itinerary for "Oprah's Ultimate Australian Adventure" has been kept a closely guarded secret, with the audience still left in the dark upon their arrival in Sydney. But travel details finally released by Australia's tourism minister on Tuesday reveal a sweeping adventure in store for Winfrey's fans, with trips planned to each of the country's eight states and territories.

The audience, which ranges in age from 18 to 75, has been split into several smaller groups and will be sent off to explore the glittering Great Barrier Reef, the crocodile-infested rainforests of northern Oz, and the famous red monolith called Uluru, in the Outback. They will also tour the country's wine regions, visit a historic prison colony in the island state of Tasmania, and check out the wildlife on Kangaroo Island,

home to koalas, sea lions and, of course, kangaroos.

Excited audience members waved at reporters and photographers as they were ushered through Sydney airport and onto a bus, which whisked them away to a hotel for a briefing and a traditional Aboriginal dance performance.

"It's an unbelievable experience, and I just want to soak in every bit of it," said Jocelyn Kelley, of Boston, who was traveling with her mother, Gloria. "To be in that audience, to be a part of something so big, is just amazing."

Winfrey will film two episodes at the Opera House (which the Australian media has renamed the "Oprah" House) and a third episode at a yet-to-be disclosed location, rumored to be somewhere in the Outback. The shows are scheduled to air



in January.

Her arrival has been treated with breathless anticipation in Australia, which is forking out more than \$4 million for the trip between the federal and state governments. Officials say that's a small price to pay for the many millions of dollars of tourism advertising the show will bring.

"Oprah is a household name, not just in the United States but in the 145 countries where the show is broadcast," Federal Tourism Minister Martin Ferguson said in a statement. "That Oprah has chosen Australia as her Ultimate Adventure destination sends a powerful message to her millions of fans around the world."

The Winfrey fans will have a packed schedule, enjoying everything from surfing lessons and snorkeling to nature hikes and beachside barbecues.

Oprah Winfrey is interviewed on the red carpet at the Kennedy Center Honors, in Washington, on Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010.

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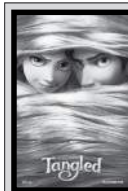
The Warrior's Way

Friday 4:10 7:10 9:50
 Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50
 Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
 Mon through Thurs 4:10 7:10

Kate Bosworth, Geoffrey Rush
 Action • Rated R

Synopsis

Kate Bosworth, Geoffrey Rush, Danny Huston, and Jang Dong-gun star in this visually inventive hybrid martial arts Western tracing the adventures of an Asian assassin who must fight for his life while hiding out in the Wild West.



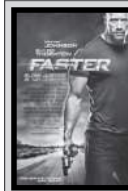
Tangled

Friday 4:20 7:20 9:40
 Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40
 Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
 Mon through Thurs 4:20 7:20

Mandi Moore, Zachary Levi
 Children's, Family • Rated PG

Synopsis

The classic Brothers Grimm fairy tale gets a lavish CG makeover as directors Glen Keane and Dean Wellins team to tell the tale of a fair-haired beauty with long-flowing locks, a gallant hero with a heart of gold, and the evil witch who plots to keep these lovelorn innocents apart.



Faster

Friday 4:30 7:30 9:55
 Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
 Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
 Mon through Thurs 4:30 7:30

Dwayne Johnson, Billy Bob Thornton
 Action, Drama • Rated R

Synopsis

An ex-convict seeks revenge for his brother's death in this action-packed revenge thriller starring Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. Ten years ago, Driver (Johnson) was part of a bank heist gone horribly awry. In the chaos of the botched robbery, his brother wound up dead. Now Driver is a free man, and he's determined to punish the men who killed his brother.



Burlesque

Friday 4:05 7:05 9:45
 Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45
 Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
 Mon through Thurs 4:05 7:05

Cher, Christina Aguilera
 Musical • Rated PG 13



Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows I

Friday 4:00 7:00 10:00
 Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
 Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
 Mon through Thurs 4:00 7:00

Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson
 Fantasy, Children's, Family • Rated PG 13



Unstoppable

Friday 4:25 7:25 9:35
 Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35
 Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
 Mon through Thurs 4:25 7:25

Denzel Washington, Chris Pine
 Action • Rated PG 13



Megamind

Friday 4:15 7:15 9:30
 Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:30
 Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
 Mon through Thurs 4:15 7:15

Will Farrell, Tina Fey
 Comedy, Children's/Family • Rated PG

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Helen Mirren credits parents at annual Hollywood honors

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—"I love the smell of estrogen in the morning."

That's how Katie Couric opened her keynote address Tuesday at the Hollywood Reporter's Power 100 Women in Entertainment breakfast, an annual event that brings together some of the entertainment industry's most powerful female executives and shot-callers.

The 19th annual breakfast event, held at the Beverly Hills Hotel, featured Couric and Dame Helen Mirren, who received the Sherry Lansing Leadership Award.

Halle Berry presented Mirren with the award in recognition of her personal and professional integrity, lauding her fellow Oscar winner as "a giant talent" and someone who has "conducted her whole life with such grace

and dignity."

Mirren said that though her parents were old school—her mom "was convinced that she would personally walk on the moon before there would be a female prime minister"—they raised her to strive for economic independence in whatever career she chose.

Mirren has worked steadily since launching her career in the late 1960s, and Berry said the 65-year-old actress is single-handedly breaking down age barriers in Hollywood "because you can age, you can do films that are successful and you can still be hot as hell."

Mirren said that while she regrets "having witnessed in my life the survival of some very mediocre male actors and the profes-

sional demise of some very brilliant female ones," she refused to complain about the dearth of roles for women over 50.

Hollywood "continues to worship at the altar of the 18- to 25-year-old male, and his penis," she said.

Instead, Mirren said she's concerned with "the presence and perception of women in life, on our public stages, in politics, and law, commerce, science, engineering."

"This is what changes roles on screen," she said.

Couric, meanwhile, talked about the inspiration she has found around the world through her reporting assignments and within her own family through her parents and siblings.



Mirren

Jane Fonda wants TV role, releases new workout DVD

NEW YORK (AP)—Jane Fonda has something she'd like to work out: A television series.

"I have a sort of a vision of what it could be and that's all that I'll say," Fonda said in an interview last week. "I think the best, edgiest writing is now on cable television. It's pretty exciting."

While the Oscar-winner hasn't officially signed up for a TV show, she can be seen in new workout DVDs designed specifically for baby boomers.

"People who are of a certain age tend to be ignored by the fitness industry and being that I'm older and I've done a lot of research on what happens to a body when it gets older, I know

that it's essential that we stay active," Fonda said.

The 72-year-old recently released "Jane Fonda: Prime Time Walkout" and "Jane Fonda: Prime Time Fit & Strong." She says too many older people dismiss working out, and that needs to change.

"It's the worst thing that a person could do when they're older is to say, 'Why bother now? I'm older. I don't need to,'" Fonda said. "I'm on this crusade to get older people out of the chairs, off their couches, moving in a way that's safe, easy and very doable even if they've never done it a day in their lives. It's never too late."



Fonda

Fonda says she's also writing a book about aging called "Prime Time: Creating a Great Third Act." It is due out next year.

"It was the research that I did while writing my book on the aging body that motivated me to get back into the fitness industry again," Fonda said, who hasn't released a workout video since 1995.

She recently finished filming two movies and will take her Tony-nominated performance in the Broadway play "33 Variations" to a Los Angeles theater next year. Fonda said as she gets older, life gets easier.

"You get a little wiser as you get older. You've been there, done that. You know it's not gonna kill you. You've survived it before. You tend to make lemonade out of lemons instead of mountains out of mole hills," she said.

Star of traditional Japan theater barred for brawl

TOKYO (AP)—A star of traditional Japanese theater who called in sick, then went out drinking and ended up brawling in a bar apologized Tuesday for the scandal that has embarrassed the rarefied world of Kabuki.

Ebizo Ichikawa, 33, known as the “prince” of Kabuki, gave a televised news conference Tuesday hours after leaving a Tokyo hospital where he was treated for the facial injury sustained in the fracas that has riveted the nation for almost two weeks.

Originating in the 1600s, Kabuki is a stylized all-male theater that combines music, dance and acting to tell stories about samurai vendettas, love suicides and everyday city-life in performances that use outlandish facial makeup and elaborate costumes.

Although the audience still tends to be elderly, young performers like Ichikawa have revived interest in Kabuki in recent years by tackling TV shows and other works outside their genre.

Ichikawa, from one of the most respected kabuki families, has won fans with his telegenic look and powerful performance at home and abroad, including France, the U.S. and Australia.

But Ichikawa has been suspended indefinitely from performing Kabuki by theater operator Shochiku Co. following the incident at a celebrity bar in a ritzy Tokyo neighborhood on Nov. 25. He had been out drinking after skipping a daytime media event, citing health reasons.

“I’m very sorry for causing tremendous trouble and concerns. I deeply regret what I did,” Ichikawa told reporters, wearing a dark



Japanese traditional Kabuki actor Ebizo Ichikawa reacts during a press conference in Tokyo, Japan, Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2010.

suit and a tie, with his left eye still blood-shot. He spoke somberly and bowed deeply several times in apology.

Ichikawa said he had been drinking with a group of young men whom he had just met and later helped one of them who passed out. He said this may have led to a misunderstanding, as other men in the group then attacked him.

He declined to give further details about the brawl.

Japanese media have reported that police have obtained an arrest warrant for a 26-year-old man for an alleged assault, but quoted one of the attackers as saying Ichikawa encouraged the fight.

The Kabuki star admitted he was very drunk. He said he suffered a fractured left cheek bone, two chipped front teeth, and multiple internal and head bruises.

The injuries have already forced him to cancel an appearance in a high-profile year-end show in Kyoto.

At least three main sponsors have pulled TV commercials featuring him. Food company Yamaki Co., medical products maker Pip Co. and soft drink manufacturer Itoen Co. said they have temporarily suspended TV commercials featuring him “until all records are set straight,” citing “social impact.”

Japanese media reports estimated the damage from his absence on stage and TV commercials to be around 100 million to 200 million yen (\$1.2 million to \$2.4 million).

“A major blow to Kabuki’s frontman,” the Yomiuri Shimbun, Japan’s largest, said recently of Ichikawa’s injury and his scandal. “It could also hurt the overall image of the world of Kabuki.”

Jonas Brothers manager looks for next star on Web

NEW YORK (AP)—The manager behind the Backstreet Boys, ‘NSync and the Jonas Brothers is looking online for his next pop act.

On Wednesday, Johnny Wright will begin accepting video auditions worldwide from aspiring musicians, ages 16 to 30. The field will gradually be winnowed down through challenges and a boot camp in Los Angeles.

A final band will be chosen in June 2011.

Wright’s search will be followed in the 21-episode Web series “On the Spot: Johnny

Wright’s Quest for the Next Pop Sensation.” It will be streamed by AT&T’s U-verse TV service, and Cambio.com, the music site co-owned by the Jonas Group, AOL and MGX Labs.

Wright is recognizable not just from the acts he has managed but also from Sean “Diddy” Combs’ MTV show “Making the Band” and NBC’s short-lived “Fame.” He said he’s often approached in public—at places like the Cheesecake Factory or Footlocker—where people give impromptu auditions, singing a

song or rapping a few lines.

“I always felt uncomfortable because I felt like I had to give them an immediate response to what they did and I didn’t have enough time to register what they did,” Wright says. “A friend of mine named Doug flipped out his camera phone, and he started filming the person on camera.”

Wright would upload the videos to his website, <http://www.wegmusic.com>, and see what fans thought of the performers. Later, when Cambio asked about a possible Web series, Wright said

his improvised auditions might be the basis of something.

Auditions will run through Feb. 25. The series, which can be watched online and on mobile phones through U-Verse and Cambio, will begin in January.

Wright says he wants to see sincere passion come through in the auditions.

“When I see something that I like, my leg starts to shake back and forth,” says Wright, laughing. “That’s my tick. When that happens, I know I’m interested in something.”

Lisa Ling: I felt like a failure after miscarriage

NEW YORK (AP)—Journalist Lisa Ling says she felt like a “complete failure” after suffering a miscarriage six months ago.

Ling, who appeared on “The View” from 1999 to 2002, came back to the show Tuesday to talk about her experience. Her taped appearance will air Friday.

Ling says that after she’d been pregnant for nine weeks, she was told her baby had no heartbeat. She says she “felt more like a failure than I’d felt in a very long time.” Ling, who is 37, says she fears it might happen again, leaving her “devastated.” Ling is married to oncologist Paul Song.

She says she realized that many women she knew had miscarriages but rarely talked about it. She and a business partner have started a website that encourages women to anonymously share their experiences.



DiCaprio

2 years for woman charged with slashing DiCaprio

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A woman who pleaded no contest to slashing Leonardo DiCaprio’s face with a glass at a house party five years ago was sentenced to two years in state prison Tuesday.

Aretha Wilson was sentenced by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Patricia Schnegg after entering her plea to assault with a deadly weapon last month.

The “Inception” star, who required surgery after the attack, did not attend the sentencing.

Wilson went to Canada after the attack and returned earlier this year. The 40-year-old has been jailed in Los Angeles since July.

Her sentencing was repeatedly delayed while authorities tried to figure out how much credit Wilson would receive for time served.

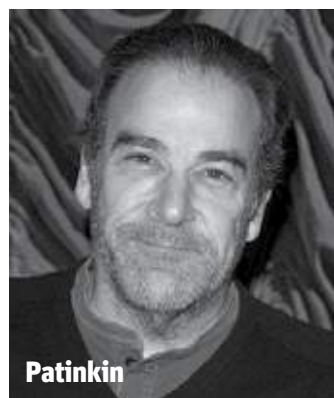
Her attorney, Freddy Sayegh, said Wilson is likely to serve roughly six months after all her credits are factored in. She may be deported to Canada after her release, Sayegh said.

Patinkin to star in off-Broadway’s ‘Compulsion’

NEW YORK (AP)—Mandy Patinkin will star in Rinne Groff’s “Compulsion” at The Public Theater next year in New York.

Patinkin, who won a Tony Award in “Evita,” plays a man obsessed with the diary of Anne Frank, who in the play is portrayed as a marionette. The cast includes Hannah Cabell and Matte Osian.

The work, directed by Public



Patinkin

Theater Artistic Director Oskar Eustis, was staged this year at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre and the Yale Repertory Theatre. It begins previews in New York on Feb. 1 and opens Feb. 17.

The show is scheduled to run until March 13.

Besides his Tony win, Patinkin also has been nominated for Tonys for “Sunday in the Park with George” and “The Wild Party.”

Son’s gal pal is eating up all of his mother’s goodwill

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: My son “Dennis” is divorcing for the third time. He has primary custody of his oldest two children and shared custody of the younger two. He is an excellent father.

I have stayed with him in his large home to help with the kids. I supplement their groceries with things we enjoy. Dennis has a female friend he confides in. He insists they are platonic, but she has told me she hopes to win him over.

This woman has a hard time making ends meet, but always has money for pedicures and out-of-town football games. She spends many days and nights with Dennis, showering there, eating his food and using his laundry facilities. I resent that she is eating or taking home the food I buy for the children. Am I being selfish? My husband and I live on a fixed income and must be careful with our money. Any suggestions?

WARY IN MINNESOTA

DEAR WARY: I do have one. Because you resent the idea that your son’s lady friend may be helping herself to the goodies you are providing for your son and grandchildren, and because it is causing you financial strain, STOP DOING IT. Or bring with you only what you and the children can consume during your visit.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Thank you for publishing my letter (Oct. 27) about Mindy, the dying woman who was celebrating all occasions and holidays early. I would like to add a poignant postscript to the original story. During Mindy’s battle with cancer, she and her husband Bill were friendly with another couple who, sadly, were also battling cancer. In this case, it was the husband who had, at a young age, developed the disease.

Near the end of her life, Mindy asked her adult daughter to try and create a relationship between Bill and Helen, the wife who had lost her husband. A few months after Mindy passed, her daughter suggested to her father that he call Helen just to chat. He did, and after some time their friendship evolved into a serious relationship. They are being married in the next few months.

Mindy must have instinctively known that the losses the remaining spouses had suffered would never be understood except by someone else who had experienced such pain. What a selfless person she was!

RABBI ALBERT SLOMOVITZ

DEAR RABBI SLOMOVITZ: Indeed she was. And I wish Bill and Helen a lifetime of happiness together.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My 27-year-old daughter and two grandsons (ages 5 and 6) moved in with me more than a year ago. “Lori” is a good mom, but it upsets me when I wake up at night and discover that she’s not home. She will leave a note saying she’s with this person or that and will be home by midnight or 1 a.m.

It infuriates me when she leaves the boys alone with me without informing me in advance. We argue constantly about this, but she continues to do it. I am ready to call the police or to file a report with DSS. Lori says I am home anyway, so what’s the harm? Please help me with this.

HOME ALONE WITH THE KIDS
WHILE MOM’S OUT PARTYING

DEAR HOME ALONE WITH THE KIDS: Your daughter’s behavior is extremely disrespectful to the mother who took her in. Nothing will change until you draw the line and tell her that the home she and her boys are living in is yours—not hers—and you expect her to live by your rules, the first of which is giving you the courtesy of asking whether YOU might like the evening out before she plans one for herself. You are both adults, and you deserve to be consulted. If she won’t comply, she should make other living arrangements.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

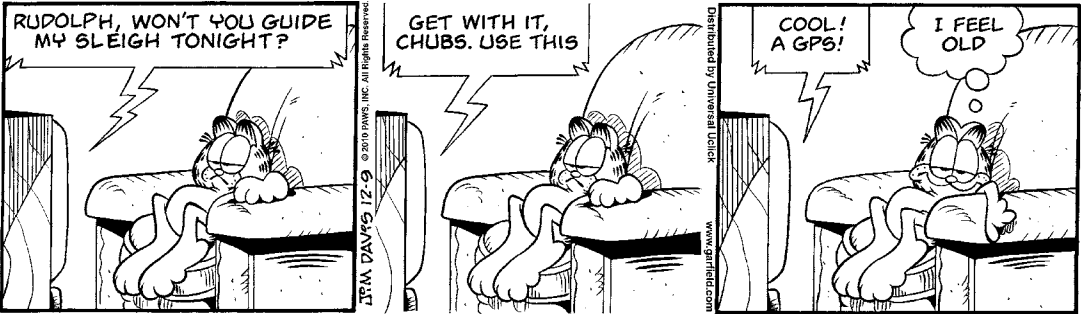
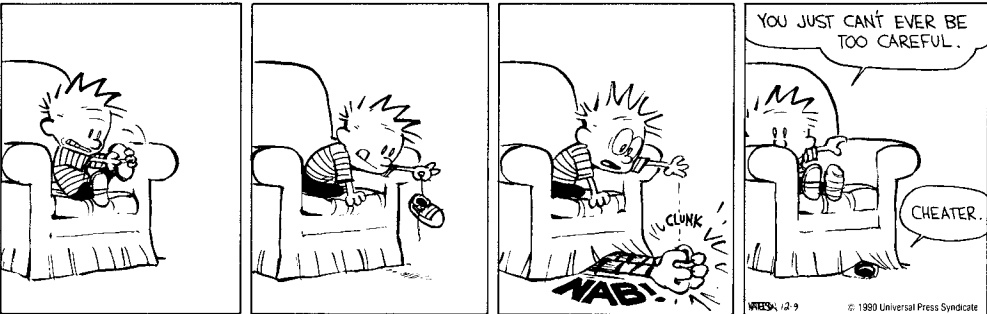
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Minus-cule bit 5 Lend an illegal hand 9 Eviscerate 12 Trade-mark symbol 13 Old Italian money 14 Spring mo. 15 Travel while campaigning 17 Fish eggs 18 Mono alternative 19 Minimal change 21 Yoked beast 22 Saw 24 "The Amazing —" 27 Bear hair 28 Pirates' quaff 31 Geological period 32 Anger 33 Mate of 37- Across

34 Predicate necessity 36 Legisla-tion 37 Mate of 33- Across 38 Cancels out 40 "Forget it!" 41 "— Foolish Things" 43 One side of the Urals 47 Old garment 48 "Phooey!" 51 Clay, today 52 Incite 53 On the briny 54 "Ulalume" writer

55 "Desire Under the —" 56 Ollie's pal

DOWN 1 Church vest-ments 2 Perfectly 3 Fairy tale baddie 4 Fifth President 5 Choir member 6 Story of a lifetime? 7 Screw up the 8 Florida city 9 Accumu-lated 10 Informed about 11 Deuce beater

16 Gender 20 Early bird? 22 Emana-tions 23 TV host 24 Gun the engine 25 Exist 26 Noted steel tycoon 27 Stuff 29 Eggs 30 Prized pos-session 35 Clear the tables 37 Heart lines? 39 Sill 40 Rapa — (Easter Island) 41 Snare 42 Head light? 43 Tackles' team-mates 44 Brewer's kiln 45 Entreaty 46 Vivacity 49 "You've got mail" co. 50 Aries

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterdays answer 12-9

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Felicity Huffman, 48; Donny Osmond, 53; Beau Bridges, 69; Dame Judi Dench, 76

Happy Birthday: Lay the ground work required to move in a profitable, but enjoyable, direction. It's time to use all your attributes and assets to advance, grow and contribute to something you believe in wholeheartedly. Set your sights and goals on what you want to achieve and don't stop until you get what you want. Your numbers are 5, 8, 18, 25, 32, 41, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Choose your words carefully and or you will have to compromise. Stay focused on what's important. Optimism will attract positive people. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep your emotions in check. Don't let someone you work with upset you or make you feel defeated. You have lots to offer and being a little outspoken won't hurt your position. Opportunities are available if you put in the effort. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Have a little fun with friends. Don't take anyone too seriously. Keep moving forward with creative endeavors and dedicate a little time to a cause you believe in. Get ready to throw out the old and bring in the new. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Finish anything you've left undone. Don't be surprised by the response you get from someone jealous of your talent and popularity. Keep an open mind. Socializing with colleagues will position you well for any job openings in the new year. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may have to restructure who does what if you want to make sure that you don't fall behind at home or at work. Mixing business with pleasure will enable you to accomplish the most, as long as you don't make a fuss or complain. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Socializing with friends, peers and people who share your interests will lead to an interesting opportunity for travel, learning or getting involved in a brand new venture. Don't let your heart rule your head. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take each step of whatever you are working on and do your very best. Someone hard to please will scrutinize you. Rely on your past experience to help you do what's right. Discipline and hard work will pay off. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Offer helpful suggestions, using diplomacy, if you want to avoid a falling out with someone you care about. Focus on having fun. Getting back to your roots or making plans with people you don't see often will help you recall life goals and how to reach them. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll come up with an interesting money-making plan if you discuss your skills and the services you think you can offer. Before putting any money into your plan, test the market on a small scale. Look at the facts and decide what action will bring the highest rewards. ****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll have plenty to be thankful for and some interesting deals will show promise and

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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prosperity. A leadership position will be offered because of your past performance. Greater responsibility will pay off but will cost you personally and emotionally. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It may be difficult to hold back the way you feel. Don't let a mistake cost you financially or emotionally. Offer what you can to help out but don't feel you have to match what everyone else is giving. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't be afraid to change your mind or make an unexpected diversion that will catch others off guard. Your spontaneity will get others to respond to your requests. If you are willing to delegate work, you will be successful. ***

Birthday Baby: You are innovative, a driving force and a determined and persistent player. You are aggressive, productive and relentless.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	9	3				2	5	
1			5		3			7
4								8
	6			8			1	
	3			2			7	
9								3
5			9		6			1
	8	7				6	4	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/09

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

3	5	2	4	8	7	1	9	6
4	8	9	6	5	1	2	3	7
1	6	7	9	2	3	4	8	5
8	7	3	2	1	4	5	6	9
9	2	4	5	7	6	8	1	3
5	1	6	8	3	9	7	4	2
2	3	8	1	9	5	6	7	4
7	4	1	3	6	2	9	5	8
6	9	5	7	4	8	3	2	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/08

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

IT'S REALLY, REALLY COLD Solution: 6 letters

I	C	C	I	F	L	U	R	R	Y	S	T	I	F	F
ⓑ	W	O	L	E	B	N	H	E	A	T	E	R	O	L
Z	Ⓜ	C	C	O	T	T	O	N	T	I	A	E	R	O
E	P	Ⓤ	O	S	U	R	E	S	R	A	N	O	E	O
R	E	T	Ⓝ	I	W	D	O	E	A	E	E	D	C	C
O	S	L	S	E	D	R	Y	P	L	E	I	W	A	R
D	H	S	K	P	C	A	U	Y	S	S	S	G	S	A
N	G	U	C	M	L	E	P	D	T	E	E	N	T	C
A	I	N	O	A	L	O	E	U	U	F	N	I	H	K
B	E	I	S	D	R	P	O	L	L	A	Y	I	J	S
D	L	M	N	P	P	F	B	M	F	L	L	K	A	H
A	S	U	Y	A	S	P	L	A	R	O	S	C	I	
E	B	L	H	D	R	O	C	E	R	O	N	S	K	V
H	O	C	K	E	Y	E	E	M	E	R	T	X	E	E
P	B	L	I	Z	Z	A	R	D	L	O	C	S	T	R

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Alps, Below, Blizzard, Blues, Bobsleigh, Boots, Bundle Up, Chapped, Chill, Cloudy, Coat, Cold, Cool, Cotton, Cracks, Damp, Dry, Extreme, Face, Fall, Fleece, Flurry, Forecast, Headband, Heater, Hockey, Jacket, Layer, Minus, Numb, Nylon, Outside, Polypropylene, Pullover, Rain, Record, Scarf, Season, Shiver, Skiing, Sleet, Socks, Soup, Sport, Stiff, Storm, Sweater, Winter, Zero

Yesterday's Answer: Casablanca

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STUMPED?

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ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune*: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

**IN THE FAMILY COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT
STATE OF HAWAII
FC-A NO. 09-1-0071**

In the Matter of the Adoption of
A FEMALE CHILD, Born on
May 10, 2007 by
BRENT HARUKI SHIMOKAWA and
ROXANNE SHIZUE MORI SHIMOKAWA
Husband and Wife, Petitioners.

THE STATE OF HAWAII TO:

Guo An Zhan aka Zhan Guo An, whose last known address is unknown.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a petition for adoption of the above –identified child born to Mei Yue Piao aka Piao Mei Yue, the child's mother, has been filed in the Family Court, First Circuit State of Hawai'i.

THE PETITION ALLEGES that your consent to the adoption of the above-named child by the petitioners above-named is not required and may be dispensed with pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes Section 578-2(c) as amended.

A hearing on the petition will be held on Tuesday, JAN. 25, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. at the Family Court located at 4675 Kapolei Parkway, 3rd Floor, Kapolei, Hawaii 96707.

IF YOU FAIL to appear at the hearing on the date and time and at the place noted above or if you fail to file a written response to the allegations reflected in the Petition for Adoption, further action may be taken including the granting of the adoption with further notice to you. Your written response should be addressed to the Presiding Judge, Family Court, First Circuit, 4675 Kapolei Parkway, Kapolei, Hawaii 96707.

FAILURE TO OBEY this notice may result in an entry of a default and default judgment against you.

YOUR ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the child, the adoptive parents and the natural parents have rights under H.R.S. Section 578-15 regarding confidentiality of adoption records after the child reaches age 18.

DATED: Honolulu, Hawaii, _____ NOV. 23, 2010

/s/ S. IHA
Clerk of the above-entitled Court

Laurie A. Loomis #3716
1001 Bishop Street. #2380
Honolulu HI 96813



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2 French backups help lift Mavs past Warriors



DALLAS (AP)—Third-string center Ian Mahinmi had 12 points and a career-high 10 rebounds, and fourth-stringer Alexis Ajinca provided quality minutes to help the Dallas Mavericks beat the Golden State Warriors 105-100 Tuesday for their 10th straight victory.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 25 points, Jason Terry had 20 and Caron Butler 19—but that's expected. The surprise was the performance by the backup big men, both from France. They were forced into duty because starter Tyson Chandler was home with a stomach ailment and fill-in starter Brendan Haywood got in early foul trouble.

Stephen Curry scored 21 points, David Lee had 20, Monta Ellis 18 and Dorrell Wright 17 for Golden State.

Bobcats 100, Nuggets 98

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Stephen Jackson scored 23 points as Charlotte held off Denver to deny Nuggets coach George Karl his 1,000th NBA win.

Returning to North Carolina where he played in college and going up against his longtime friend and fellow former Tar Heel Larry Brown, Karl had hoped to become the seventh coach of the 1,000-win club in Charlotte.

Chauncey Billups scored 25 points and Carmelo Anthony added 22 points and seven rebounds for the Nuggets, who had won seven straight.

Gerald Wallace had 20 points and nine boards for Charlotte. Tyrus Thomas scored 16 before leaving left late in the fourth quarter with a tight left quadriceps.

Lakers 115, Wizards 108

At Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 32 points, and Lamar Odom added 24 points and seven rebounds as the Lakers beat Washington for the eighth straight time.

Pau Gasol had 21 points, 14 rebounds and eight assists for the Lakers in their final home game before a seven-game, two-week trip that includes a rematch with Washington on Dec. 14. Los Angeles struggled to put away the lively Wizards, but never trailed for the fourth time this season.

Nick Young hit a career-best six



Golden State Warriors center Andris Biedrins, left, and forward David Lee, right, defend Dallas Mavericks center Ian Mahinmi (28) during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Golden State Warriors in Dallas on Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2010.

3-pointers while scoring 30 points in his hometown for the Wizards, who closed the third quarter on a 16-1 run to make the two-time defending champions uncomfortable. John Wall backed Young with 22 points and 14 assists.

Trail Blazers 106, Suns 99

At Portland, Oregon, Wesley Matthews scored 24 points, Brandon Roy and LaMarcus Aldridge had 20 apiece and Portland snapped the Suns' three-game winning streak.

Phoenix led by as many as nine points early in the fourth quarter but the Trail Blazers, known for late-game meltdowns of late, tied it at 89 on Nicolas Batum's layup and went in front on Aldridge's two free throws with 3:38 left. Matthews made two more foul shots to extend Portland's lead.

Steve Nash had 24 points and 15 assists for Phoenix.

The Blazers made 32 of 33 free-throw attempts while playing without guard Andre Miller, who was serving

a one-game suspension imposed by the league for making "excessive and unnecessary contact" with Blake Griffin in the fourth quarter of a 100-91 victory over the Clippers on Sunday.

Hawks 116, Nets 101

At Atlanta, Josh Smith scored a season-high 34 points to lead streaking Atlanta to another victory.

The Hawks are 4-1 since losing top scorer Joe Johnson for four to six weeks to a right elbow injury and have won seven of eight overall.

Jamal Crawford had a season-high 26 points and Al Horford added 24 points, 10 rebounds and six assists for Atlanta.

Brook Lopez led New Jersey with 24 points. Devin Harris had 18 points and 13 assists.

76ers 117, Cavaliers 97

At Philadelphia, Thaddeus Young had a season-high 26 points as Philadelphia downed Cleveland to pick up its fourth win in five games.

Lou Williams scored 13 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter for Philadelphia, which placed seven players in double figures in its highest scoring output of the season. Jodie Meeks and Jrue Holiday had 16 points apiece, Andre Iguodala scored 13 and Elton Brand finished with 12.

J.J. Hickson had 18 points for Cleveland, which has lost five consecutive games by an average of 22.2 points. Daniel Gibson scored 16 and Mo Williams added 15.

Rockets 97, Pistons 83

At Houston, Luis Scola had 35 points and 12 rebounds to help the Rockets spoil Tracy McGrady's return to Houston.

McGrady hit a 3-pointer with about eight minutes left to get the Pistons within one, but Houston scored the next seven points to stretch the lead to 85-77 with six minutes remaining.

McGrady, who spent 5 1/2 seasons with the Rockets, finished with 11 points. Rodney Stuckey had 18 points and five assists for Detroit.

Kyle Lowry added 22 points and 12 assists for Houston, and Kevin Martin had 21 points.

Sperling aims to find local buyer for Hornets

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The man picked by the NBA to oversee the Hornets after the league's impending takeover of the franchise said Tuesday that his assignment is to make the club more attractive to a buyer who would keep the team in New Orleans.

Jac Sperling traveled to New Orleans to begin his role as the NBA's administrator for what will be the first team owned by the league after the NBA board of governors' anticipated approval of the purchase in the coming weeks.

Sperling, a sports attorney who is also vice chairman of the NHL's Minnesota Wild, was born and raised in New Orleans. He was appointed by NBA Commissioner David Stern.

"I grew up here. (Stern) asked me to help," Sperling said. "Read into that what you want, but I think the commissioner, he's been very positive about this city going back to when the team was awarded in 2002, (then moving the

team back from Oklahoma City) after Katrina ... and also the awarding of the 2008 All-Star game.

"We're in a difficult spot, yes, but I think his selection of me is a further indication of what is in his mind. He wants to try to make this asset more attractive so perhaps a local buyer will step up."

Sperling said there is no rush to sell the club and that one of his first orders of business will be to see whether revenue streams from ticket sales, sponsorships and the government inducements can be enhanced.

He said it would not be wise "to go try to find a buyer now when asset not performing at it's best."

Sperling said the NBA takeover should be seen as a positive development in terms of the team's ability to compete on the court.

"We have a well-funded owner who is going to be collaborative partner with management who they have con-

fidence in," Sperling said, referring to team president Hugh Weber and general manager Dell Demps.

The Hornets are 13-7, but after a surprisingly strong 11-1 start, they have lost six of their last eight games.

Their next home contest is Wednesday night against Detroit.

Sperling said he also wants to meet soon with state and city officials to talk about whether the arena lease and other government incentives can be modified to provide a better baseline level of financial security for a future local owner of the club.

"The state and city have been terrific partners for the New Orleans Hornets," Sperling said. "The situation is changing so we need to sit down and have a conversation. ... There would have to be some sort of arrangement with state and city give local owner some sort of comfort that this is asset he'd like to purchase."

The Hornets' lease of the New Or-

leans Arena, which runs through 2014, has an early exit clause that could be activated in 2001 if average attendance for last season and the first half of this season falls below 14,735. A moderate spike in attendance during home games this month and next would void that provision because average attendance for all of last season was a little more than 15,000 and so far this season is 13,860.

Hornets president Hugh Weber said he was confident the attendance benchmarks would not be an issue because the club has been talking to the state about changing the lease.

"We continue to talk to the governor's folks. He has assigned some very smart people. We've been working closely for a long time to make these benchmarks a non-issue and we'll continue to do that," Weber said. "The last thing we want is to have this number ticking off every single day. What we want to do is have people come to the arena, have a great time, have a winning product on the court and have a business model that works."

Lakers' Bynum gets through full practice without pain

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—Center Andrew Bynum participated Monday in his first full practice with the Los Angeles Lakers since offseason knee surgery.

Bynum still isn't sure when he'll return to the Lakers' starting lineup, but he intends to play in December.

"I made it through practice with no pain, no symptoms, so it's pretty good," Bynum told reporters after practice. "I just want to get a couple of practices in. I want to play within the month, anywhere. I just want to get enough practices in so it's not too far when I get into a game, I can keep up the pace and stuff like that."

Bynum had no swelling or soreness after scrimmaging with his teammates at the Lakers training complex. He has worked his way back into practice gradually in recent days, participating in some drills and skipping others after off-season surgery to repair a partially torn ligament in his right knee.

Los Angeles' demanding schedule on its upcoming road trip will limit Bynum's opportunities for more practices, but he'll work out daily to continue building strength. After Tuesday's home game against Washington and a "road" game against the Clippers on Wednesday night, the Lakers are off on a six-game East Coast road trip stretching nearly two weeks.

"If we were here, I'd probably have more practices on the days between games," Bynum said. "We'll be working out even if the team does have an off day and just trying to get back some time within the month."

After averaging 15 points and 8.3 rebounds for the Lakers last season, Bynum delayed surgery to participate in the Lakers' run to their second straight NBA title, averaging 8.6 points and 6.9 rebounds while starting all 23 playoff games. Bynum's knee was drained at least twice during the postseason to reduce swelling.

Bynum then made a trip to South Africa for the World Cup with the Lakers' blessing, postponing his surgery for several more weeks.

"He's coming right along," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "He went through every aspect of our practice, so he's putting himself through all the paces and asking for double time to improve his conditioning. He's nearing a time where we're going to be very serious about him going out and playing. ... I just can't put a date (on it)."

Bynum's absence has forced Pau Gasol into a heavy workload with the Lakers, and the Spanish 7-footer has struggled with a strained hamstring in recent weeks. Gasol's health has improved after playing a season-low 27 minutes last Friday against Sacramento, followed by three straight days without a game.

Jets coach: NFL deserves better game



FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP)—The New York Jets went to New England looking to make a statement.

They did. The wrong one.

A day after being embarrassed on national television, the Jets were wondering how everything went so wrong in a 45-3 drubbing on Monday night.

"It was the game of the year," a bloodshot-eyed coach Rex Ryan said Tuesday. "The unfortunate thing is I feel bad for ourselves, obviously, our fans and, really, the NFL. The NFL deserved a better game than that, but we weren't up to the task."

That was clear early in the Jets' most lopsided loss since falling to the Miami Dolphins in 1986 by the same score. New York was 10-1 at that point, and that defeat, along with injuries, sparked a five-game losing streak.

Ryan acknowledged that there's plenty the Jets (9-3) need to fix before their game Sunday against the Dolphins (6-6) to avoid a similar fate. He said he never left the facility after getting back from the game early Tuesday morning.

"We got pummeled, we played terrible, but it's one game," Ryan said. "Everything we talked about is still attainable."

Everything, meaning, a Super Bowl trophy—something Ryan guaranteed during training camp.

Ryan even evoked the 1985 Chicago Bears, a team whose defensive coordinator was his father, Buddy. That team lost its only game that season to Miami 38-24 on a Monday night in Week 13, a result Ryan said he thought "was probably just as humiliating, bad, all that kind of stuff on a national stage, maybe even as big or even bigger than this."

Ryan added that he hopes "history repeats itself" as the Bears went on to win the Super Bowl that season. And, despite his own team's lousy loss, Ryan is confident his guys can turn things around.

"We have a quarter of our season left," he said, "so we're far from pressing the panic button."

The same can't be said of some distraught fans who flood-

ed sports radio shows with calls wondering if the Jets can possibly bounce back from this kind of loss. The performance was also heavily criticized by the media, with everyone from Ryan to Mark Sanchez to the vaunted defense getting clobbered.

"This humble pie tastes like a car tire and it goes down like peanut butter," defensive tackle Sione Pouha said after the game. "That's how it feels. Sunday can't come soon enough."

There will be lots to do in the days leading up to that, though. The players will gather as a team Wednesday morning, and Ryan said he'll address them at that point.

"I'll have a specific message," he said, "that I'll share with them first."

You can be sure there won't be many smiles in that room, nor should there be after what went down at Gillette Stadium.

"We really have to do some soul searching and see what we're really about, what type of team we want to be," wide receiver Brad Smith said. "I think we will be all right."

It couldn't get much worse than it did Monday, when there were serious breakdowns on offense, defense and special teams



AP
New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick, left, meets New York Jets head coach Rex Ryan on the field after the Patriots beat the Jets, 45-3, in an NFL football game, Monday, Dec. 6, 2010, in Foxborough, Mass.

that Bill Belichick's team capitalized on each time.

"We couldn't have played much worse in all phases of the game," tight end Dustin

Keller said.

Sanchez was off target all night, throwing three interceptions against a pass defense that ranked last in the league coming

in. Offensive coordinator Brian Schottenheimer and the Jets' offense also never really took advantage of the Patriots' young secondary.

"This was a good old-fashioned butt-kicking," Sanchez said. "There's no two ways around it. I need to play better, especially down the stretch."

With the Jets trailing 24-3, Sanchez's interception at the Patriots 2 early in the third quarter ended any comeback chance New York had. The rout was on after that.

On special teams, Nick Folk missed another field goal, falling short on a 53-yard attempt, and punter Steve Weatherford shanked a 12-yard punt that led to a score.

The Jets' defense, which Ryan has said will be ranked No. 1 at the end of the season, was picked apart by Tom Brady drive after drive. The Patriots scored on each of their first four possessions, taking a 21-point lead into halftime. It only got worse in the second half as the Jets appeared unable to stop or tackle anyone, including former teammate Danny Woodhead.

Other than Darrelle Revis, the secondary—already short-handed with the loss of Jim Le-

onhard—was exposed by Brady as Eric Smith struggled as Le-onhard's replacement and Antonio Cromartie had probably his worst game with the team.

"We stunk up the joint on defense," Ryan said. "We stunk up the joint on offense, and we were probably worse on coaching."

Ryan and his staff had 10 days to prepare for the Patriots after last playing on Thanksgiving. It's the third time this season—including the opener and the game after the bye-week break—that the Jets have lost after an extended break.

"We should have tried everything but what we did," Ryan said. "We thought we had a great scheme, but the execution was poor. But, again, it's not all on the players. It's on the coaches, too."

The Jets now have lots to prove, especially considering that every win except for one against the Patriots in Week 2 has been against teams with .500 or worse records. After Miami, the Jets have games at Pittsburgh (9-3) and Chicago (9-3) before ending the regular season at home against Buffalo (2-10).

"Throw out last night," Ryan said. "We've got to try to rack up as many wins as we can."

Haynesworth to appeal suspension

WASHINGTON (AP)—Simmering all year, the antagonism between Albert Haynesworth and Mike Shanahan finally reached the boiling point Tuesday when the two-time All-Pro defensive lineman was suspended by the Washington Redskins coach without pay for the rest of the season.

Citing a litany of acts that essentially add up to season-long insubordination, the Redskins suspended Haynesworth for "conduct detrimental to the club" and told him he's not welcome for the team's final four games—and making it extremely unlikely he will play for the club again.

"Despite the club's numerous attempts to persuade Albert Haynesworth to abide by the terms of his contract, he has repeatedly refused to cooperate with our coaching staff in a variety of ways over an extended period of time," Shanahan said in statement released by the team. "Among other things, he has consistently indicated to our defensive coaches that he refuses to play in our base defense or on first-down or second-down nickel situations. He has also refused to follow the instructions of our coaches both during weekly practices and during actual games as well."

"Yesterday, when Albert was at Redskin Park, he

told our general manager Bruce Allen that he (Haynesworth) would no longer speak with me. Although suspending any player is not a decision that a head coach enters into lightly, I believe the situation has reached the point where the club clearly has no alternative."

Allen informed Haynesworth of the suspension, the maximum permitted under the league's collective bargaining agreement. Haynesworth's agent, Chad Speck, said his client will appeal. Speck chided the Redskins for not giving any prior formal notice that Haynesworth's behavior was in question.

"The accusations made by coach Shanahan and Bruce Allen are vague and without merit," Speck said in a written statement. "Since training camp began, today's notice was the first that Albert received informing him that his conduct was not consistent with the 'terms of his contract' as coach Shanahan claims. Bruce confirmed to me today, that there have been no other letters or formal notices of any kind sent to Albert during the regular season suggesting that he was engaging in conduct detrimental to the team."

George Atallah, spokesman for the NFL players' union, said on Twitter: "All I can say at this time is that the NFLPA is reviewing the details."

It wasn't hard to see this coming. Haynesworth and Shanahan have been going at it almost from the day the hard-nosed coach who won two Super Bowls with the Denver Broncos was hired by the Redskins in January.

Haynesworth skipped offseason workouts because he didn't want to play nose tackle in the 3-4 defense the new coaches were installing, preferring instead to play in a scheme that would showcase his talent and help achieve his goal of becoming "the best defense tackle to ever play this game," Shanahan told Haynesworth to go find another team, contingent upon giving up a \$21 million contract bonus due on April 1.

Haynesworth didn't want to give up that much money, so he stayed on the roster and remained disgruntled. He boycotted a mandatory minicamp, drawing a \$10,000 fine and searing comments about being "selfish" from defensive captain London Fletcher. He became a league-wide punch line when he needed 10 days to pass a conditioning test at the start of training camp.

He complained about playing with the backups in preseason games. He received sympathetic words and support from Shanahan and the rest of the team when he missed a regular season game following the death of his half brother in a motorcycle accident, but he waited so long to return that the coach made him inactive for the following game as well.

Yankees waiting for go-ahead from Lee's agent



TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—After meeting with Cliff Lee's agent at the winter meetings, Yankees general manager Brian Cashman is awaiting a go-ahead from Derek Braunecker to make a contract offer.

"If they're ready to take one, I'm willing to get serious," Cashman said. "We're just waiting for them to get to that position. I know what we're willing to do and how far we're willing to go. We'd love to add Cliff Lee to the Yankee rotation, there's no doubt about that. He knows that."

Speaking after Tuesday's news conference to announce Derek Jeter's \$51 million, three-year contract, Yankees co-chairman Hank Steinbrenner sounded upbeat about signing the 2008 AL Cy

Young Award winner.

know," Steinbrenner said.

Texas acquired Lee from Seattle in July after the Yankees thought they had a deal to get him in a trade from the Mariners. Lee led the Rangers to their first World Series appearance, and Texas wants to re-sign him.

Washington also said it would like to acquire Lee. The Nationals agreed to a \$126 million, seven-year contract with outfielder Jayson Werth last weekend, and there was speculation Tuesday that Washington will offer Lee a seven-year deal.

"I don't believe rumors, anyway," Steinbrenner said. "If somebody offered him seven years, 10 years, 15 years, I don't go by any of that, anyway."

We'll offer him what we think is, obviously, very fair and we'll go from there."

Cashman met with Lee last month at the 32-year-old left-hander's home in Arkansas.

"He's going to weigh the opportunities presented to him, the locales presented to him, whatever they are, and measure against whatever we're willing to do, and he'll make a call," Cashman said. "He'll make a decision here at some point, but we've just got to respect the process, respect the player and his family and their interest and try to educate them as much as we can about what we have to offer."

Speaking with Washington-area reporters, Nationals general manager Mike Rizzo downplayed his team's chances of signing Lee.

"I still think we're a real long shot to acquire the player," he said.

New York is more gung-ho.


"We're involved," Yankees managing general partner Hal Steinbrenner said. "We've got some money to spend. If we've got money coming off we always put most or all of it back in. That's what the fans expect. They expect us to field a good team every year and we're going to do that. We'll see where we end up."

Without offering any names, Cashman said he has met personally with one other player and plans to see more soon.

"I've been engaging a lot of people," Cashman said. "And you know what? If we don't put through anything, then we'll wait for spring training or the season to get what we need. I'm in a rush to get something done right. I'm not in a rush to get it wrong."

Armatech, Undertakers win in Memorial Cup

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

 Armatech and Undertakers posted contrasting wins in last Tuesday's games in the Masters Basketball Federation of the NMI's Memorial Cup at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In the first game, Undertakers bounced back in the second half to beat Exclusive in the 45A division, 77-64, while Armatech came out on top of a back and forth match against Islander Rent-A-Car in the 40A division game, 87-85.

The second match of the night was not decided until the final seconds on the clock, as Islander remained in the thick of the fight behind the nine points of Jack Palacios and a late three-pointer from Mike Surima. However, four free throws in the final moments of the match void Surima's long shot at the end and bailed Armatech out of trouble.



The Undertakers' Dave Demapan slashes through the lane during their game against Exclusive in the 45A Master Basketball Federation of the NMI's Memorial Cup last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Armatech came out the winner in the seesaw battle with Bernard Montano and Sonny Ebuén combining for 15 points in crunch time.

Islander led after the first

10 minutes of play, behind the combined 12 points of Jeff Stoll, Surima, and Palacios.

Both teams kept their paces in the second quarter, but this time Armatech came out on top at the

half, 43-42. Montano led the charge with nine markers in the second period, while Islander's Lilio Tipples delivered 11 points, but did not receive as much support from his teammates.

Then Islander roared back after the break to retake the upperhand, 65-62, heading into the final period. Palacios tallied nine points in that third canto.

However, Islander failed to neutralize Montano and Ebuén in the fourth period, allowing Armatech to notch its fourth win in five games. Islander

dropped to a 1-2 record.

Montano finished with 19 points for Armatech, while Palacios tallied a game-high 24 for Islander in the loss.

In the 45A game, Undertakers

Meanwhile, two semifinals games in the U19 division are set for tomorrow. Pending last night's playoff matches results, only the Kagman Sparks and the Sonics are assured of semis berths. The Ol'Aces, Rollers A and B, and G-Stars were fighting for the last two semis seats last night.

Sonics 68 – Alegre 17, Salem 14, Aranda 12, De Guzman 8, Mizer 6, Escalada 4, Estrada 3, Aguilar 2, Villanueva 2.

Agape 38 – Lixing 21, Zheng 6, Yang 4, Puno 3, Yuan 3, Li 1.

Scoring by quarters: 21-9,

Staal submitted 24.76 seconds in the 50m freestyle race, shattering his own record in the boys 15 to 16 age group (25.03 seconds) posted on May 22, 2010. Staal's time last Saturday was also a new CNMI record, making him the first Commonwealth swimmer to break the 25-second barrier in the 50m freestyle.

"Tsunami Saipan would like to congratulate Ryuto, Lukas, and Kai for their record-breaking swims. Congratulations, too to all the participants for a job well done," Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura said.

AON, Shirley's Coffee Shop, IT&E, Continental Airlines, Docomo Pacific, Hertz, AMS Typhoon Shutters, Deloitte, First Hawaiian Bank, Pepsi, Miller Lite, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Pacific Islands Club, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and the American Memorial Park.

Joe Villacrusis, and Emily Matson as members and completed the race in 1:38:21.

In the solo race, Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel clocked in at 1:44:06, beating Keum Bae Ji (1:48:44), Andres Buitrago (1:51:26), and Roy Ortiso (2:15:35).

from-behind win
Demapan turned in a team-high 16 points for Undertakers, while Alesandro led all scorers with 21 markers.

The Memorial Cup season continues tonight with a 45A division game between Taga Security (1-0) and top ranked Top 45's (4-0) at 6:30pm and a 40A tiff featuring Team 1 and Islander Rent-A-Car at 8pm.

First Game

Undertakers 77 – Demapan 16, Deleon Guerrero 14, Buniag 10, Villasan 9, Robel 8, Pangelinan 7, Plinske 7, Vergara 6.

Exclusive 64 – Alesandro 21, Miguel 13, Pepito 12, Cepeda 10, Yarofalir 8.

Scoring by quarters: 10-12, 28-31, 54-50, 77-64.

Second Game

Armatech 87 – Montano 19, Ebuén 15, Moreno 15, Trajano 15, Canedo 6, Tobias 6, Arenas 5, Belo 3, Mateo 3.

Islander Rent-A Car 85 – Palacios 24, Surima 13, Tipples 11, Darag 8, Stoll 7, Villegas 5, Lopez 4, Malicden 4, Valencia 4, Villasan 3, Pacheco 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-20, 43-42, 62-65, 87-85.

SONICS

From Page 28

get back into the game. Agape only managed seven points in the second period compared to the Sonics' 13.

Jack Aranda had five of those 13 points for the Sonics, who padded their lead to 18 at half-time, 34-16.

After the break, it was Nevin Salem's turn to carry the Sonics on his shoulders, as he tallied 10 points to help his team pull away further. Lixing matched Salem's

effort, but could not find enough support from his teammates for Agape to gain any ground. With the Sonics battling only Lixing, they led, 56-31, heading into the final period.

Jaymark De Guzman came off the bench for the Sonics in the fourth quarter and kept the pace going, adding six points. Agape was able to get to the line and convert seven free throws in the last period, but the Sonics successfully worked the clock and controlled possession of the ball very well to maintain their distance.

Agape struggled against the Sonics' physical full court press all game. At times when Agape beat the Sonics' press, the former still had a hard time making baskets, often pulling up for ill-squared shots.

Alegre led the Sonics with 17 points, while Lixing turned in a game-high 21 markers for Agape in the loss.

The Sonics will face the winner of the Rollers A and B for the championship this Saturday at 8:30am. Sister teams Rollers A and B will duel for the last finals seat today at 5pm.

3 TSUNAMI

From Page 28

50m fly, while Kang clocked in at 40.36, as both Tsunami Saipan swimmers slipped past the 43.06 seconds Akimaru logged on May 30, 2009.

For their feats, Yanai and Kang received commemorative plaques from Tsunami Saipan, which launched a race for the club's 100th record. Tsunami Saipan was formed in 2007 and since then, the club had either set or reset CNMI age group/national records 99 times.

Tsunami Saipan swimmers made their first bid to mark the club's 100th record during an SSC-sponsored event last month, but faltered.

Incidentally, in Tsunami Saipan's second attempt last weekend two swimmers broke a record in the same heat, prompting the club to declare Yanai and Kang winners of the race to Tsunami Saipan's 100th record.

After the 50m butterfly swim, the seven-year-old Kang had another record-crushing finish when he timed in at 3:19.50 in the boys U8 200m individual medley. Kang eclipsed the

3:36.71 record of Olympian and U.S. national swimmer Jonathan Sakovich. Before Kang's record swim, Sakovich's mark stood for 31 years.

Yanai was in the same heat with Kang for the 200m IM and the former also posted a time better than Sakovich. The seven-year-old Yanai completed the 200m IM in 3:20.60.

Kai Staal missed the 100th record award, as he swam in the heats for the oldest age group (13-and-above) late in the morning session of the one-day meet. However, he still recorded two marks in the 50m freestyle.

my Choi and Sakano (men's 3.0 doubles), Dong Lacbayo and Richard Asuncion (men's 4.0 doubles), Shimiko Montgomery and Carrie Schuler (women's 3.0 doubles), Mimi Clinard and Mikayla Lopez (women's 4.0 doubles).

Tan Holdings president Jerry

and soloist (men's and women's).

Team Flow of Paul Anthony, Nicole LeBlanc, Florence Antonio, Ryan Camacho, and Ronald Villafria ruled last year's Christmas Island Relay after timing in at Christmas Island Relay. Team Butterfly, composed of

Tan congratulated all the winners and participants and also thanked Guam players for joining the second edition of the annual tournament.

The two-weekend tournament was supported by Gatorade, Quality Distributors, TakeCare, Mobil, Tan Siu Lin Foundation,

the husband-and-wife tandem of Joshua and Mamiko Berger, Fred Camacho, Tamio Nishikido, and Shogo Ando clocked in at 1:34:57 to finish second. Rounding out the Top 3 were the Hoopaholics, who had James Lee, Jerry Diaz, Peter Mendiola,

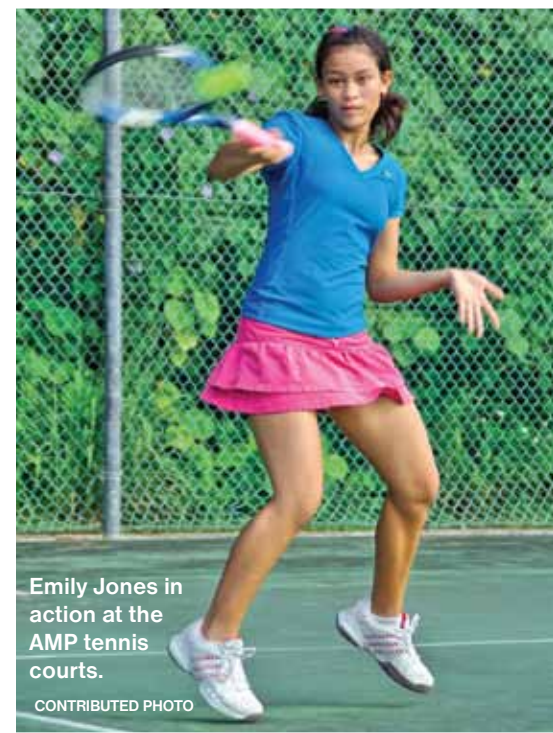


TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS									
EASTERN CONFERENCE									
Atlantic Division									
	W	L	Pct	GB					
Boston	16	4	.800	—					
New York	13	9	.591	4					
Toronto	8	13	.381	8 1/2					
Philadelphia	7	14	.333	9 1/2					
New Jersey	6	16	.273	11					
Southeast Division									
Orlando	15	6	.714	—					
Atlanta	15	8	.652	1					
Miami	14	8	.636	1 1/2					
Charlotte	8	13	.381	7					
Washington	6	14	.300	8 1/2					
Central Division									
Chicago	11	8	.579	—					
Indiana	10	9	.526	1					
Milwaukee	7	13	.350	4 1/2					
Cleveland	7	14	.333	5					
Detroit	7	15	.318	5 1/2					
WESTERN CONFERENCE									
Southwest Division									
San Antonio	17	3	.850	—					
Dallas	17	4	.810	1/2					
New Orleans	13	7	.650	4					
Houston	8	13	.381	9 1/2					
Memphis	8	14	.364	10					
Northwest Division									
Utah	16	6	.727	—					
Denver	13	7	.650	2					
Oklahoma City	14	8	.636	2					
Portland	10	11	.476	5 1/2					
Minnesota	5	16	.238	10 1/2					
Pacific Division									
L.A. Lakers	15	6	.714	—					
Phoenix	11	10	.524	4					
Golden State	8	13	.381	7					
L.A. Clippers	5	17	.227	10 1/2					
Sacramento	4	15	.211	10					
Yesterday's Games									
Atlanta 116, New Jersey 101									
Charlotte 100, Denver 98									
Philadelphia 117, Cleveland 97									
Dallas 105, Golden State 100									
Houston 97, Detroit 83									
Portland 106, Phoenix 99									
L.A. Lakers 115, Washington 108									
NBA LEADERS									
Scoring									
	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG				
Durant, OKC	18	157	155	494	27.4				
Rebounds									
	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG				
Love, MIN	21	98	223	321	15.3				
Noah, CHI	19	79	153	232	12.2				
Howard, ORL	19	54	176	230	12.1				
Griffin, LAC	22	86	173	259	11.8				
Gasol, LAL	20	69	162	231	11.6				
Camby, POR	20	68	147	215	10.8				
Odom, LAL	20	51	155	206	10.3				
Biedrins, GOL	20	68	129	197	9.9				
Garnett, BOS	20	21	176	197	9.9				
Okafor, NOR	20	54	138	192	9.6				
Assists									
	G	AST		AVG					
Rondo, BOS	16	226		14.1					
Nash, PHX	18	188		10.4					
Paul, NOR	20	207		10.4					
Williams, UTA	22	219		10.0					
Kidd, DAL	20	179		9.0					
Wall, WAS	13	113		8.7					
Westbrook, OKC	22	190		8.6					
Felton, NYK	22	186		8.5					
Rose, CHI	18	147		8.2					
James, MIA	22	160		7.3					

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2nd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic



Emily Jones in action at the AMP tennis courts.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

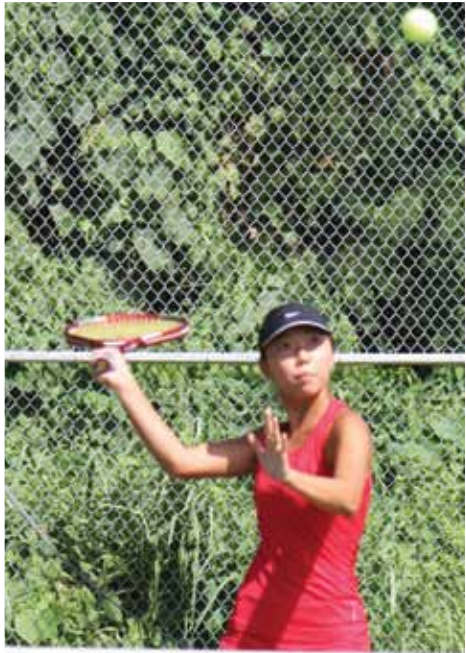


Nanding Cajigan teamed up with Reo Arriola and they played against Guam's Peter Lai and Benson Au-Yeung at the PIC tennis courts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

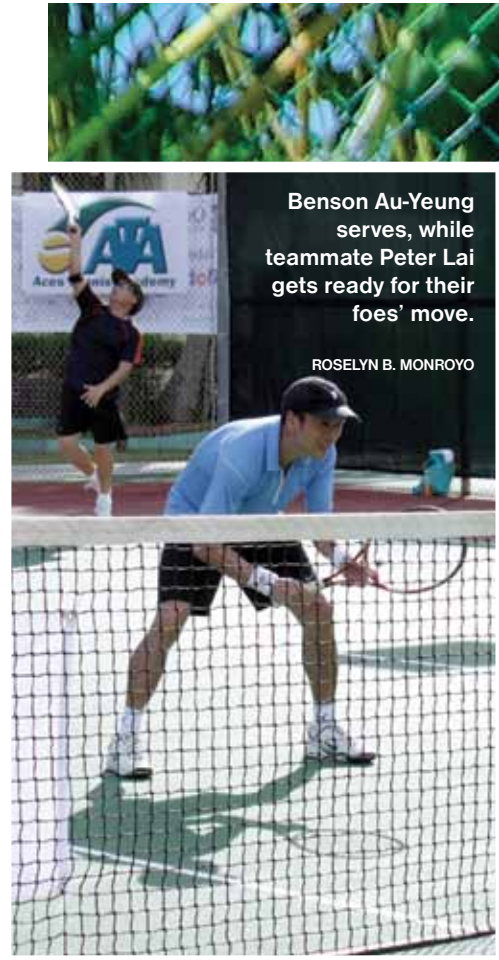
Vivian Lee gets ready to return to Rafael Jones during their open co-ed singles consolation game at the AMP tennis courts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Kennedy Izuka goes for a return during a singles game in the 2nd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic at the Hyatt Regency Saipan tennis courts.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Benson Au-Yeung serves, while teammate Peter Lai gets ready for their foes' move.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Rafael Jones serves to Vivian Lee.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Jeff Race has his eyes on the ball during his semis match against Ji Kent Kwah.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Peter Loyola returns to Kirk Schuler during their open co-ed singles semis game.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Kirk Schuler serves to Peter Loyola.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Ji Kent Kwah goes for a backhand return against Jeff Race.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



28 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2010

Saipan Tribune Sports



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Sonics advance to finals

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Sonics pounced Agape, 68-38, in a playoff game in the 2010 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium to book the first finals ticket in the U15 division.

Bryl Alegre's eight points in the opening quarter helped the Sonics jump out in front, 21-9. James Lixing led Agape with five markers in the first period. Then despite a sloppy performance by the Sonics in the second quarter, Agape's offense stalled again, wasting an opportunity to

See SONICS on Page 26

3 Tsunami swimmers shatter records



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kai Staal, left, fixes his goggles before the race. Right photo shows Tsunami Saipan's Lukas Kang, left, and Ryuto Yanai holding a plaque awarded to them for making the club's 100th record during last Saturday's pentathlon meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kang crushed an age group mark during a pentathlon meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Tsunami
Swimming
Center



Saipan's month-long quest for the club's 100th record ended last Saturday after Ryuto Yanai and Lukas

Yanai and Kang swam in the same heat in the boys U8

50m butterfly and shattered the record of Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru. Yanai timed in at 40.03 seconds in the

See 3 TSUNAMI on Page 26

Christmas Island Relay set for Dec. 18



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mamiko Oshima-Berger and Jerry Diaz cruise along San Roque village during last year's Christmas Island Relay

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Northern Marianas Athletics will hold its season-ending run next weekend with the staging of the Christmas Island Relay on Dec. 18.

The 13.7-mile race from Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio to the Last Command Post in Marpi is open to a team of

five runners. Runners opting to negotiate the entire course solo are allowed to do so.

For the five-person team, three runners must cover three miles each, another will run 2.7 miles, while the fifth member will take the remaining two miles. Each squad must have one U16 runner, one female runner, and a runner in the 40-and-above age group.

Entrance fee is \$5 per run-
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Winners in Tan Holdings Tennis Classic feted

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REPORTER



After two week-ends of hard work, CNMI and Guam players as well as a junior netter from Malaysia finally reaped the fruits of their labor, as trophies and plaques were awarded to winners of the 2nd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Plaques were given to the Top 2 finishers in the adults and junior singles and doubles, while trophies were awarded to winners in the consolation draws of adult and juniors singles.

Tournament director Kirk Schuler led the announcement of winners and presentation of trophies in the boys and girls

U10, U12, U15, and U18 doubles and singles, and the men's 2.0 doubles, 3.0, and 4.0 doubles and singles, and open doubles, co-ed open singles, women's 3.0 and 4.0 singles and doubles, and mixed doubles.

Winners in Week 1 got their trophies and plaques first. The list include junior singles champions Michael Ren and Tiffany

Madlambayan (U10), Carol Lee (U12), Mikayla Lopez and Christian Miller (U15), and Ji Kent Kwah and Thea Minor (U18); and runners-up Luther Lizama and Tanya Tan (U10), Carl Dela Cruz (U12), and Jodel Fernandez and Rafael Jones (U18).

Other Week 1 winners who received their doubles plaques

were champions Vivian Lee and Peter Loken (mixed open doubles), Theecl and Boyet Minor (4.0 mixed doubles), Maru Villanueva and George Poquiz (3.0 mixed doubles), Steven Goodwin and Michael Ren and Malika Miyawaki and Mimi Sakano (U10), Adele Hudkins paired with Emily Jones (U12), Negahr Rastgui and Melody Johnson (U15), and Rafael Jones and Kwah (U18).

Week 2 winners in the adults singles include Kwah (co-ed open singles), Carl Dela Cruz (3.0) Anthony Wenceslao (4.0) Vickie Izuka (women's 3.0), and Mikayla Lopez (women's 4.0). The runners-up were Loyola (co-ed open singles), Dylan Ackerman (3.0), Guam's David Lai (4.0), Amy Arenovski (women's 3.0), and Lydia Tan (women's 4.0).

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Men's doubles and singles winners pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony for the 2nd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.